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Advocacy Learning Center

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The Advocacy Learning Center: Class S Application Informational Webinar

Elena Anderson, Liz Carlson, Shelly Stoffel-Blanck

2/7/19

Please stand by for real-time captions.

>> Hello everyone and thank you for joining. We are at the top of the hour and ready to get started.

>> Hello everybody. Thanks for joining us today. I'm Elena Anderson and the program associate for the Advocacy Learning Center with Praxis International. We are excited to have you on the call today and happy to hear you want to learn more about ALC. I'd like to welcome you to the Advocacy Learning Center informational session on behalf of Praxis and the cosponsors of the ALC. On the call today is Liz Carlson and Shelly Stoffel-Blanck from Praxis. It's a national TA provider and are excited to share more information with you. First Liz will share some logistical information before we start.

>> Thank you, Elena. Hello everyone. It's good to be with you today. I am Liz Carlson and the program coordinator at Praxis. That means I am behind-the-scenes doing lots of different things including webinar logistics like I am doing right now. I am going to monitor the details of the webinar today to help ensure you have a good experience. I'm going to walk you through some of the logistics about how the session will work today. First of all, I would like to call to your attention the captions that you see rolling at the bottom of your screen. Captions are really useful for all of us anticipating and webinars, and so we ask you as a general rule to try to speak slowly and to pause because we all tend to rely on captions. It is useful in our awareness and understanding of the information that

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is being shared and some of us may rely on captions more than others. As much as possible speak slowly and clearly, and it will go a long way to benefit all participants. Your phone lines will be muted. That is mostly for the session today. At various points, you will have an opportunity to ask questions through your telephone. The way in which today that we are going to recommend that process to happen is periodically Elena will ask if you have a question. At that point, we encourage you to raise your hand. You can see at the top of the screen there is a little icon person with a hand raised. That is the icon that you would select. Let's just try it right now if you don't mind. All of you who are willing, just push that button and you should see there will be a little hand raised person next to your name on your computer screen. So go ahead if you can find that, select "hand raise" on your screen. There are a few. That's great. Terrific. Thank you for that. You will be well on your way to raising your hand should the time come that you have a question. And so I will remind you periodically to utilize the "hand raise" feature if you have a question. If we see that "hand raise" has been selected, we will open all of the phone lines. I will remind you about these directions at the time throughout the session today. We encourage you when the phone lines are open to do the best that you can to ensure a quiet location wherever you are calling from. It just benefits all of the colors to have good sound quality. Also you should be aware that on your screen in the middle column there is a Q&A box. That is your option at any point without using the Q&A box or having to ask a question through your telephone to ask a question directly through a chat feature. That question will get routed to us as presenters, and then I will read the question to Elena and the whole group. It will get captioned on the screen and then we will respond. That is another option, another means to seamlessly get your questions answered. That is through our session today. This webinars being recorded and you will see it on the ALC webpage of the Praxis website. Revisit it if

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you have any colleagues or potential team members who are interested in this application. I encourage you to adjust the settings of the boxes that you see on your screen. In any of these columns, when you hover over the icon on the far right, you will see a range of options available to you to adjust settings to your preferences. Please feel free to do so. And finally, if you have any technology issues throughout the presentation today, when you go to the Q&A box you will see that you have an option for help to correspond with our presenters and myself, so please feel free to use that. If there is anything that myself or Patricia and Ana, our webinar hosts can help you with. With that, Elena I think we are warmed up for you.

>> Thank you so much, Liz. I would love to welcome you all on behalf of the sponsoring organization of the Advocacy Learning Center and the office on violence against women and Praxis conduct the ALC in our partners and cosponsors of the course.

>> Today's agenda, we are here to provide information on the Advocacy Learning Center and for your questions like Liz gave us the fabulous information on how to do and that is the primary goal. The call is for you. Our plan today's to present information on the topics we get the most questions about including the purpose and design of the ALC course, the commitments and requirements of advocacy programs, team composition requirements, costs and subsidies, application process and timeline and anything else that comes up for you. We are here to answer questions and provide an overview. We will have questions along the way and go ahead and feel free to ask any time during the webinar and we will make sure they get incorporated in as we can.

>> So to start out, I will give us a little bit of background on the purpose and history of the Advocacy Learning Center. Praxis is a nonprofit tainting and

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technical assistance organization that works to eliminate violence in the lives of women and children. We do to local, statewide and national institutional reform initiatives that bridge the gaps between what people need and what institutions provide. Praxis serves the national technical assistance provider for the U.S. Department of Justice office of violence against women and methods of institutional analysis and community assessment have been used by communities across the country to examine and approve responses to violence against women and the criminal and civil legal systems, advocacy programs, supervised visitation centers and child protection. In our many years as a TA provider we have connected with advocates around the country. We have also collaborated with many other state, tribal, and national coalitions and organizations. All of those connections showed us there has been adrift in advocacy away from origins and social change. We also saw separated and specialized work, sexual assault is their work and trafficking does there's a domestic does there's and programs including exhausted advocates and volunteers are struggling to sustain 24/7 services for survivors. We saw advocacy programs reflecting a clinical approach as an anti-oppression as opposed to an anti-oppression social change framework was beginning to disappear. From our work we knew OVW frequently funds specialized institutes and trainings to support the work of other practitioners and practitioners in the criminal legal system like law enforcement or judges or prosecutors, but apart from conferences there were not similar opportunities for advocates. So Praxis proposed to OVW the creation of a place for advocates. For those of us doing advocacy work and have the space and time with other advocates to step back from the relentless daily work of advocacy and regroup and re-energize. Where we could think together about what it means to be an advocated and assess and strengthen our approach to advocacy. To develop the ALC we held a visioning meeting all the way back in 2007 of OVW national TA

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providers and groups. In that meeting we shaped the ALC, decided to focus on all forms of violence against women and the skills of advocacy programs and not individuals. We chose a focus on structural changes in advocacy programs. We also set out to define and codify and strengthen this thing called advocacy as a unique role instead of skills that differ from social work, psychology, and the law. We launched our first class in September 2009 and have been going strong ever since. Since that time 273 programs and 713 advocates have participated and ALC teams from community-based organizations working to end all forms of violence against women have been a part of this and include tribal programs, rural and urban programs, campus programs and state and tribal coalitions and networks. So currently we have classes Q and R graduating not too far from now and as you know we are currently accepting applications for our 19th class which is class S.

>> A little bit of information about the background and design of the full ALC course. We call this experience a learning center deliberately because it's not your typical training but rather an extensive course design for advocacy programs to reflect on and possibly even change their policy and practice. So the learning center is a unique opportunity. It's not a training or series of independent events but an integrated comprehensive 18 month course that provides program teams the chance to start and complete this experience together. A little bit of information on the design of the ALC. It is broken down into three units. First we explore individual advocacy using core activities of advocacy. We think about how we interact with women and survivors who come to us for help and how can we create an experience for them that is truly liberating and then we address institutional advocacy with just thinking about how we were to improve problematic responses that we see over and over again. Whether it's in the criminal legal system or child protection or campus Judiciary committees, and the way those responses are impacting the lives of survivors. How do the problems

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come about and what can we as advocates do to create change? Finally the third unit focuses on community advocacy and considering how we engage and mobilize our communities including those who are most affected particularly survivors. How do we shift the dialogue and culture and social norms that contribute to gender-based violence? That's what we take up in the third unit. Throughout the course is a focus on how we and programs are organized to engage in social change advocacy. How do our policies or practices and staff development or job descriptions direct us to do our work in a way that leads to social change or conversely reinforces an and equitable status quo? It's a very broad overview. So that's the background and design of it all and wondering if anyone has any questions now or if anyone wants to jump in and share anything or ask anything?

>> There have not been any questions thus far, Elena. I will remind all of our participants today to feel free at any time to use the Q&A box to chat your questions into us as the presenters. We will read them to everyone on the line so everyone will have the benefit of the question you are asking. There has not been anything thus far, Elena so let's go ahead and proceed and I will be sure to give you a nudge when something comes our way.

>> That's perfect. Sounds great. Thanks Liz. Often people wonder and even some of the questions we get from people interested in applying or what can I expect from this course and what will I get out of it and what does it look like? Some of you on the call might have seen the testimonial video we sent out in publicity for the application but if not it's on our website and you can check it out there. If you want to you can hear from current participants and learn more about what they are experiencing in the ALC right now. On the screen you see a few photos from ALC in-person events that took place in the last year. We always ask participants

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for input as the course goes on and I will share some quick highlights from recent graduates and their thoughts on what the ALC meant to the program. Somebody shared we have done significant self-reflection through this journey and as a result became even more survivor-centered and reignited our passion. We have the tools we need to succeed and continue to improve our advocacy to better serve survivors in our community. Somebody else shared as advocates we became more effective and competent in working with partners to be voices for social change. Finally somebody else shared I feel strongly that this course brought me to a place of understanding of social justice on both a micro and macro level. My thinking has expanded and my advocacy has improved.

>> Let's go ahead and dive into some of the nitty-gritty of the application process year. Let's talk first about eligibility criteria. As I said before, we are funded and partner with OVW throughout the whole process. Most of the applicant selected to participate our current OVW grantees. You don't have to be a current grantee to apply, but the easiest thing to remember in terms of eligibility is if you or not an OVW grantee, would you be eligible to be an OVW grantee? If you would be eligible for those funds then you are eligible to apply for the Advocacy Learning Center. What does that mean breaking that down? And means your program is a community-based tribal or campus advocacy organization that provides direct services to women and survivors of domestic violence or any other type of gender-based violence. Another requirement we have is your program has the actual capacity to complete the 18 month course. So you need to start and finish and engage throughout. We ask that your program and team members are committed to reflecting on and strengthening how you and your organization does advocacy. So taking a step back and asking hard questions, engaging and challenging conversation, and taking a look how we can move forward in a way that is truly survivor centered and focused on justice. One of the main

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requirements for team eligibility is the proposed team include at least one frontline advocate, crisis counselor or someone who provides direct service and at least one director or other high level decision-maker. That is because this is a program that is asking people to look at their agency as a whole. If we only had frontline advocates coming in they might know what's going on with survivors every day but might not feel they have the influence in the program to make changes that they feel are necessary to better serve survivors. That sorry we try to bring everybody into the experience to work together to look and reflect upon their program, policies and practices.

>> Before I jump into this are there any questions on the eligibility?

>> Thank you for pausing, Elena. Not so far. Again, don't be shy. The Q&A box can be used freely at any point in also we have a couple of people who are connected by phone and you are welcome to utilize the telephone as well to ask a question directly. That pertains to you, if you have a question you would like to share over the phone, raise your hand and I will ask Patricia to take the phone lines off mute. Actually, that said, Elena we have a question so I will read it. The question from Bonnie says she is asking for clarification. Community-based organizations that are not tribal or campus advocacy based are still eligible to apply, right? That is the clarification.

>> Thanks for the question. That's exactly right. What you said is correct. We take community based program, tribal programs or campus advocacy programs so maybe that was not phrased correctly on my part and I apologize for the confusion. If you work in the community and work with survivors you are definitely eligible to apply and then the tribal or campus programs sometimes have questions about their eligibility. We will sometimes put that into the

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description to broaden the scope of who all we are looking for. That's a great question and thank you for clarifying that. Anyone else?

>> Not so far, but maybe that first question will pave the way.

>> Wonderful.

>> Thank you.

>> I will jump forward and talk some more about team composition. Going a bit further, we know advocacy programs differ in size and structure and focus and how many people are staffed versus volunteer roles and all of that. Selecting opposed team members can be tricky but typically teams are comprised of two or three people. We are looking for teams who will commit to an 18 month experimentation process and comprised of management and frontline advocates to move through the course together. When you come back from an in person event we want you to engage others in your program and agency and pass along the ALC to others in the organization. When you apply you will propose a team and if you are selected we might contact you and discuss and possibly change your team composition. Propose a team to us and if we need to we will go forward with further conversations. We are looking for direct advocacy programs with advocates and crisis counselors who are enthusiastic about advocacy and knowledgeable about all the advocacy efforts in your organization and have experience doing more than one type of advocacy. Also individual, institutional, and community and those who have experience with victims of different forms of violence against women like sexual, master, trafficking, and abuse later in life and have the capacity to communicate about our train on the ALC program to other frontline advocates and staff in the organization. The ALC also needs directors are high level decision-makers with the same enthusiasm, knowledge, experience and

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capacity we just talked about and also have authority to implement operational changes within the program. For coalitions and networks, we are looking for staff who coordinate, manage or conduct training with the coalition or network and that would be ideal. That includes member program staff is a great idea. We look for teams of two or three but there are some variations of that. Some organizations are very small and we recognize that. There are cases where very small organizations have a staff of one or two total. That's okay. You can put together a team of only one to send to the ALC. For those thinking about a team and you may have a very large organization and you struggle to think about a team of two and how could you make the best of a team of two or three, and make sure its representative of the entire organization and all you offer, our maximum cap of accepting is no more than four team members per organization. So you can have teams of one to four and the ideal of most common is two or three. We understand there are circumstances where it might be a team of one or four you propose to us. The reason we do that, capped off that four is we have limited space available. Each class at the learning center if we accept the program with more than four people it eliminates completely another organization to participate. We try to make it last small so you have opportunity to grow and learn from each other, support each other, and it feels like you're 18 month journey is with people you have a chance to get closer to. A good thing to remember is the ALC is not intended to be a training for new advocates to orient them to the work. It doesn't mean you couldn't propose a new advocate for your team, but the purpose of the ALC is not to introduce the work of advocacy to a new employee. It is to further your program as far as dialogue around policies and practice and your place in the movement. That's a quick reminder. I will pause again for any lovely questions from any of our lovely participants if anyone has one.

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>> Not so far. But typically as we proceed through the details, there are often a number of details that require clarification. Or things that just aren't sitting quite right, so be sure as this is your opportunity while we are together on the webinar, take advantage of our time and ask away with whatever things or details are that don't quite make sense.

>> There is plenty of information we are throwing at you and only more coming. Use this opportunity to take it all in and if we can do anything to make it more clear, that's what this session is for.

>> Moving forward, let's talk about what the course looks like and what are the offerings and requirements to participate. You were committing your organization to a process that will lead to possibly redesigning aspect of advocacy with women and survivors in systems. During your 18 month journey your organization will have access to nine days of intensive in-person training with ALC faculty and staff. You will have monthly support and critical thinking sessions. Quarterly keynote lectures. Independent study course. A virtual site visit to an innovative program that works for social justice and social change. As well as access to free individualized technical assistance. As we are introducing and going through all of these concepts and engaging in these challenging discussions and thinking big picture, we also take a step back and provide the individual technical assistance, so if you are looking for help and how to break the concepts down to make them apply to your agency and how to take first steps in creating changes, that is something we are intentional about providing. We make it easier to implement some of these ideas.

>> To get a little more specific about Class S, I will not read this to you because I don't need you to and it's a block of text but I put it up so you can see some of the specific dates for events that will be taking place in Class S. It's all on the website

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and in the application. It's very accessible to find when you are considering applying for the course. Those are the events taking place in the most important to highlight would be the ones in purple which are in person events which take place every couple of months in the Twin Cities area.

>> You were committing the organization to the process and all staff members will need to attend the three in person events. Each month, team members will take part in at least one element of the course, whether a one person event or self-study component or a webinar. We have monthly strategies session webinars were your whole class will get together and go deeper into specific parts of the units you are in. Leading up to each of those sessions there is usually a survey so we can get feedback from the participants about what they are already doing in relation to the course and we can work that in. We try to make the process collaborative. Are there any questions about any of what I have put up so far?

>> Not anything additional. Nope.

>> All right. Plenty of information. Next I will hand it over to my colleague Shelly to share information with us.

>> I will give you a little break. Hello, this is Shelly and I am the training manager at Praxis International and I am in our Duluth office along with Liz, our snowy Duluth office and getting quite a bit of snow today. I will do a quick summary of the cost and subsidy information. First of all, the course and all the materials are free. There is minimal cost for the long-distance phone calls and you do need an Internet connection for the webinars. If you are not an OVW grantee they want you to use grant training funds for all or part of the travel to in person events. And subsidies are available through us if you do not have enough funds to cover the expenses. What happens once you get accepted is I usually send you a form that

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asks you if you are not an OVW grantee to describe what funds you have available. I also have you fill out a form that talks about your specific travel needs, like which airport you will fly out of and how much it costs to get from home to the airport so we get a pretty good guess at how much exactly it will cost your agency for everyone to travel to Minnesota. Like I said, full and partial travel subsidies are available through us. One thing to keep in mind is if you decide to do the team of four we can only subsidize three people. It's always good for people to know that in advance that we cannot subsidize a full team of four. If you sent four you would have to cover at least one person. I think that basically covers the basics.

>> Thank you Shelly. You are the resident expert on all of that and glad to have you on the call with us. Does anyone have questions on any of the details that Shelly went over?

>> Let's see. We do have a question. Maybe this is a comment. It just reads are we able to apply to OVW just for this program?

>> Shelly, do you have the answer for that?

>> Are you asking are you not currently an OVW grantee?

>> I think that would be it.

>> That's right. So she responded to say no, not an OVW grantee. So this relates to the category Shelly of how some ALC participants are not OVW grantees.

>> That's right.

>> You would apply for the ALC through Praxis. You are not really applying to OVW but then OVW would be supporting or subsidizing your travel expenses.

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>> So Sandy, it seems a little confusing and I think the short and easy answer is you should apply. [Laughter] And then it is really up to us to go through the process of figuring out what needs to happen relative to subsidy and so on and so forth. It's not an obligation on your part to submit an application to OVW. We figure out the subsidy on our part. Is that right, Shelly, is that a good answer?

>> Yes.

>> Okay. So we have a couple of other things that are coming in. So Colleen is asking a question if one program of our agency is OVW-funded but we are trying to use other available grant funds for participation in the ALC, how could we reflect that in our application?

>> Elena, correct me if I'm wrong but isn't there a spot where they can explain that?

>> In the application itself we ask if the program that is applying is OVW-funded or if there is an advocacy partner, STOP grant partner of a funded program or not. You can select what type of funding your agency might have from OVW and then you can indicate any other notes to us about your funding in that section of the application as well.

>> Once you are accepted I work with you. There is a form and then we can also just talk and you can let me know what you have available or don't have available. It's a pretty easy process.

>> There is one other question from Breanna that relates to the piece about not already being an OVW grantee. She is asking what happens if there program is accepted but don't receive full subsidy?

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>> We work with the programs who apply on what they might need for a subsidy and what we can offer. It might mean, say you apply with a team of three, we can fully subsidize 2. That's just a for instance. So there might be instances where we have to work with you to make it happen, but if you are accepted we try to do everything we can to make it possible for programs financially. We can't guarantee full subsidy for a team, but we work really hard to make it a financial accessible program. Is or anything else you can add, Shelly?

>> No. You should just apply and not worry about it at this point. [Laughter]

>> We have to tell you about the money part of it, but most important thing actually to consider is just the eligibility and team composition. Submit your application and from there we can work with you based on your funding and what is available.

>> I would echo what Shelly said about apply and what Elena said about apply and we will work with you. Generally speaking, two and three-person teams that all works better in terms of OVW subsidies and money and so on and so forth. When someone wants a four person team, to be in the ALC, right Shelly and Elena?

>> Yes. That can be a lot harder to make work if someone requests a full subsidy for a team of four. That's a bit more challenging probably and not as likely if I can venture to say that and Shelly can stop me if I am misspeaking. Like Shelly already said, we can only subsidize up to 3 participants total so we cannot offer full subsidy for a team of four so if you can fund even one participant, there's a possibility of having the other three subsidized. But we can't subsidize a full team of four. That's already a requirement put on the setup.

>> So that is a heads up to those of you who are listening today and considering submitting your application. If you are really attached to the idea of having a four

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person application, then just expect in your submission you will be hearing from us about figuring out how to make the subsidy work, there is a good chance it will not be a full subsidy and there will be some kind of figuring out about how to get that to come together. Just a little heads up in that way.

>> Any other questions while we are on this subsidy and cost issue? Okay. Not at this point, Elena. For those of you listening, it's not too late. Whether during the remaining webinar or after the session is done, you should continue to connect with us with your questions.

>> Absolutely.

>> Pass them our way at any point. I think we can continue with a little bit of content that we have left, Elena.

>> Wonderful. So a little bit of logistics around the application process. The due date for the application is Monday, March 18 2019 by 5 PM Central Time. The application process, the first thing we suggest you do before you start is to download the instructions. There is a link here on your screen. The easiest way to access it is to go directly to the Praxis International website. On the Advocacy Learning Center page you can download the instructions from that page. It gives you all the details and recaps everything we talked about in the informational sessions and some information we passed on today the questions and whatnot. It gives you appropriate links and deadlines and team composition considerations as well as eligibility requirements and all that good stuff. Once you review the instruction sheet, the application itself is an online application on Survey Monkey. We have uploaded to our website a word document version of the application that allows you to fill it out in a Word document or to look at questions in advance, but the final submission will be through Survey Monkey. That link is on

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your screen and can be found on the website or in the publicity sent to you. It's a pretty simple application. We mainly asked for background on your program, why you want to participate, how you are funded, and we asked for some details on your proposed team composition. That's the due date, March 18 but if possible get them in as soon as you can. We have already begun to process the applications and are preparing for selection so submit them as soon as you can. The announcement of selected applications will likely be in May 2019. OVW does have the final say on who gets elected into each class. We present the applications with them and go through the process of approval and then we figure it out with the teams after that. Any questions on this process?

>> I have a question about Survey Monkey, Elena. So people have to finish that application in one sitting, right? Survey Monkey won't let you open and close. That's the piece where the word document gives applicants an opportunity to get really clear about what they want to include in the application before they start the Survey Monkey application.

>> That's right. And some folks find it helpful to use the word document to type out their responses to some of the short answer questions and then they can paste it into the online application so it is all saved in one place and easy to add into the online submission.

>> That's right. And you have a note on the slide that says the word document is not considered a submission of the application.

>> That's correct. If there was a particular need or reason that you want to send that to us through email as a word document, getting contact and we can talk about that. The general process for everyone is to apply online through Survey Monkey.

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>> Okay. That's great. Good clarification. Thank you. Nothing further. Not from our listeners so far.

>> Wonderful, I will jump back to Shelly.

>> All of us here at Praxis value making the ALC accessible to all participants and work to make all course events and materials as accessible as possible. The application and instructions are available using Rich Text and PDF versions on our website. If you are person with a disability and have request for accommodations relating to completing the application you can email us at advocacy@praxisinternational.org which is on the slide or you can also call Elena if you need to do the application over the phone. Her number will be on the last slide but it is 651-699-8000 x16. Once you have been selected, we begin to work with all the participants to determine accessibility needs. I send you a survey and ask for anything you might need as far as webinars, as far as in-person events and this includes things like sign language interpreters, language translators, large print materials, if you have food allergies or any special needs you have when you stay in a hotel, you will complete a survey and we work with you to make sure you have everything you need to participate.

>> That's great. Thank you, Shelly.

>> Like Shelly reference, I am the primary contact for the Advocacy Learning Center as a whole and my name is Elena and that's my phone number and email address on the screen there. You can contact me with those questions about accessibility like Shelly mention or contact me with any questions regarding the ALC. Whether it is content or logistics of your application, I am here to respond to questions throughout the process. Please get in touch with me if there is anything I can do. We are getting to the end of this session so the rest of this time is to

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open it up if we have questions or comments from any of our listeners and to give you the space you might need to clarify or go more in depth into anything.

>> We do have a question. I will read that. And anyone else feel free to take an opportunity to chat in a question before we wrap up our time together. Bonnie is asking a question related to content of the ALC. Does it include learnings on working with diverse populations, utilizing new technologies and/or newly developing areas of abuse including technology-based abuse? That is Bonnie's question.

>> That's a great question. I would say we have a very broad focus in the ALC. One of the main components of the curriculum is we understand that gender-based violence is not existing in a bubble. It is very interconnected with other social issues such as racism and homophobia and trans phobia. We incorporate that in conversations around diversity and justice and equity. It is a through line throughout the entire course. There are challenging conversation sometimes around diversity, like you brought up, or how to work with diverse populations and what that means. We have those conversations and I say in terms of staying on top of what are the new forms of abuse, that might not be necessarily part of what we have as a component in the course, but this course is very interactive. It's not just sitting in a room having someone lecture at the crowd four hours a day. That is not what this course looks like. We adopt a method of teaching which is very collaborative between the teacher and learner and recognizing both have knowledge to bring to the situation. If there was someone else in the room who had information about technology abuse or were an expert in that I wanted to bring it into the dialogue and the teachings, that opportunity would definitely exist throughout this training. We have our set curriculum, but we also teach

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alongside the people in the course and share knowledge and in a collaborative fashion.

>> Yes, that was an excellent answer, Elena. I would say rather simply that one of the benefits of a small ALC cohort is the ability for peers to know one another and to know what the extent of each program has as far as expertise. Through those connections and through sharing, you may well be connected with other programs who would be able to expand your experiences and horizons and connections in those ways.

>> And additionally if there were specific subjects that you feel your agency would like to focus on and grow your capacity in, that is part of our individualized technical assistance. We help grow the knowledgebase based on your specific needs. It's not something that we can help you with then our job is to connect you with someone who can provide that technical assistance. We are here to help you find what you need to make those types of changes and to have that growth and transformation as a program.

>> Anyone else want to jump in here? Last few minutes, by raising your hand and speaking with us and letting us hear your voice or giving us a chat to throw questions into the mix?

>> Nothing offered up so far. But again, that is the benefit of knowing that we are open and available and welcome your questions. We really want to be able to provide as much information as possible for you to feel like you have what you need to apply and consider the Advocacy Learning Center.

>> Absolutely. And I'm just a phone call or email away with anything that comes up after the session or you are thinking about now but want to ask one on one. We are a pretty small group here. We are hands-on. If you call that number or

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send an email you will get a hold of me and we will talk through things so don't hesitate to do that.

>> There was a quick chat question from Patty asking about how many teams we accept.

>> Each class is made up I would say 12 to 15 programs depending on how large the teams are. We usually get anywhere from 35 to 50 applications probably in total, and then we will take about 15 roughly programs into the current course.

>> All right everybody. I am so grateful you are on this call with us today. If you have anything else, chat it in right now, otherwise my contact information is there. I'm more than happy to connect with you and love hearing from different programs. That's one of the best parts of my job. Reach out to me and let's talk. In the meantime thank you so much for coming on today and listening to the information and considering applying to the Advocacy Learning Center. We hope to hear from you soon.

>> Thanks everybody. Take good care. Thanks Elena and Shelly.

>> Thank you. Goodbye everyone.

>> So long.

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