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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS for the 2014 SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAMS GRANT

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The Federal Grants Division and the Violence Against Women Grant Board announces that the State of Oklahoma has received an award for the Sexual Assault Services Program Grant and has \$350,734.00 to award for projects.

GRANT CONTINUATION POLICY AND MULTI-YEAR AWARDS

In 2014, \$80,000 of the \$350,734.00 will be available for new projects or enhancements to current projects. The timeline of new projects and enhancements will not exceed one year. The balance of funds (\$270,734.00) is reserved for continuation requests for current subgrantees.

While an effort will be made to continue funding projects with proven effectiveness, a project must stand on its own merit. No project is guaranteed continued funding. However, subject to VAWA Board approval, the District Attorneys Council reserves the right to modify and renew the award for 12 months contingent upon the subgrantee's fiscal and programmatic performance and with the submissions of the appropriate paperwork. Multi-year awards are contingent upon the availability of U.S. Department of Justice funding.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding from the SASP Grant, an applicant must be a non-governmental victim services program. The victim service providers must be certified through the Office of the Attorney General **before** applying for a SASP Grant. Victim service providers from federally recognized Indian Tribes are exempt from this requirement.

PURPOSE

The Sexual Assault Services Program Grant (SASP) Grant funds will support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of sexual assault services by non-governmental victim services programs to assist those victimized by sexual assault.

The purpose of the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (i.e. accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, police

departments, etc.), support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by sexual assault, **except** for the perpetrator of such victimization.

These services include:

- 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referrals;
- Accompaniment and advocacy through the medical, law enforcement, court, and social systems including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings;
- Crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, comprehensive service coordination, and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and non-offending family or household members;
- Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim and non-offending family or household members;
- Community-based, culturally specific services and support mechanisms, including outreach activities for underserved communities; and
- The development and distribution of materials on issues related to the services described in the previous bullets.

SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

SASP funding requires all applicants to be currently registered on the System for Award Management (SAM). The SAM database is the repository for standard information about applicants, recipients, and subrecipients of federal financial assistance. **Registration can take time so please start early.**

Registration on the SAM must be current prior to making application for these grant funds, so please update your registration if necessary. Please Note: Your SAM registration must allow for public search. For more information about SAM registration, go to <https://www.sam.gov>.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following are some of the FAQs available from the Office on Violence Against Women at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/sasp-faqs.pdf>:

Q: May funds be used to support services to children?

A: Yes funds may be used to support projects that focus on direct services for children who are victims of sexual assault. Services rendered to children do not have to be in connection to serving an adult parent and there is no age restriction on providing services to children.

Q: May funds be used to support projects that include education and prevention activities?

A: No, funds may not be used for education and prevention. However funds may be used for outreach to inform persons about the services provided by a specific program. For example, a program could use pamphlets, brochures, or community presentations to announce the services available under the grant.

Q: Are volunteer related expenses allowable under this program?

A: Yes, supporting these activities would be allowable. Examples would include training and supervision of volunteers.

Q: Is there a limitation on the types of sexual violence SASP funds may be used to address?

A: Funds may be used to address intimate partner; stranger and non-stranger sexual assault; as well as adult, adolescent, and child sexual violence. Both male and female victims may be served.

Q: May SASP funds be used to address domestic violence?

A: Yes, but only if the reason for providing the services is sexual violence. For example, funding could support accompaniment of the victim for a sexual assault forensic medical exam, but could not be used to support a general domestic violence-related crisis shelter.

Q: May SASP funds be used for advocate training?

A: The funds may be used to train advocates (volunteer or employee) that will provide specific grant-funded services, but may not be used to provide a generalized statewide training.

Q: May funds be used for general professional training (i.e. for law enforcement, mental health, prosecutors etc.)?

A: No, funds may not be used for general training nor may funds be used to develop training curriculums.

Q: May grantees serve adult survivors of child sexual abuse or other survivors of a non-recent assault?

A: Yes. There are no limits on when the assault must have occurred.

Q: May Sexual Assault Nurse/Forensic Examiner programs be funded?

A: No. SASP funds **cannot** support activities that are conducted by or inherent to the criminal justice system such as sexual assault nurse/forensic examiner programs, law enforcement investigations, and/or prosecution of sex crimes. However, SASP funds **can** support advocates from non-profit, non-governmental agencies accompanying a victim through any aspect of the criminal justice system.

Q: May Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) be funded?

A: No. However, if an advocate position is funded under the grant, the advocate's time in attending SART meetings may be covered as part of the advocacy he or she provides.

Q: May SASP funds support a hotline?

A: Yes, to the extent the hotline is for sexual assault victims. If the hotline covers a broader array of issues, the costs should be pro-rated according to the percentage of calls that are for sexual assault. In order for a multi-issue hotline to receive SASP funds, the people who answer the hotline would need to have sexual assault specific training.

Q: Are women's only or men's only support groups allowable?

A: Yes, assuming that the gender-specificity is for therapeutic reasons. Services should be available for victims of both genders.

Q: How long is "short-term counseling?"

A: Up to one year.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT BOARD PRIORITIES

The Violence Against Women Grant Board, comprised of six members, is charged with developing and reviewing grant proposals and determining funding awards. The Board has not specified any priorities for this grant program.

TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

Applications for the SASP Program are only available through the OKGrants Online System and will be open beginning **June 25, 2014**. Applications must be completed and submitted through this on-line system.

To access OKGrants, an applicant must create a user account and obtain a User ID and password. To obtain a User ID and password, go to: <https://grants.ok.gov> and click on "New User." Fill out the profile (user information) and wait for an OKGrants system administrator at DAC to activate the account. Once you are activated and logged onto the system, a training manual is available (click on "My Training Materials") to assist you through the application process.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

The deadline to submit the application on OKGrants is **11:59 p.m., August 12, 2014**.

Any application received after this time and date will not be reviewed. Proposals received via mail, hand delivery, fax machine or on disk will not be reviewed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information, contact Jacqueline Wagdalt Hunter, Grant Programs Specialist, Federal Grants Division, Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, at 405/264-5008, or via email at Jacqueline.Hunter@dac.state.ok.us.