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### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS for the 2015 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 \$323,571.90 to award for projects.

#### **GRANT CONTINUATION POLICY AND MULTI-YEAR AWARDS**

The federal granting agency requires the District Attorneys Council to make application for funding on an annual basis. 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, criminal justice, and social systems including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings;
- Crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, and 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.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2014/10/07/sasp-faq\\_final.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2014/10/07/sasp-faq_final.pdf):

#### **1: May SASP Formula Program funds be used to support services to children?**

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

#### **2: Are state sexual assault coalitions eligible to apply for SASP Formula funding?**

A: Yes, state sexual assault coalitions are eligible subgrantees, if they propose to provide direct services to victims of sexual assault.

#### **3: May SASP Formula Program funds be used to support projects that include education and prevention activities?**

A: No, SASP Formula Program 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.

**4: May SASP Formula Program funds be used to support projects implemented by child advocacy centers?**

A: Generally, SASP funds cannot support child advocacy centers because the focus of the program is “establishment, maintenance, and expansion of rape crisis centers and other nongovernmental or tribal programs and projects to assist individuals who have been victimized by sexual assault, **without regard to the age of the individual** (emphasis added).” This means that funded service providers must provide services to sexual assault victims of all ages. In addition, SASP funds may not be used for prosecution or law enforcement projects such as forensic examinations or forensic interviewing, which are often components of child advocacy centers.

**5: May SASP Formula Program funds be used for a subgrant that just focuses on a particular age? For example, may a subgrant be used to hire a children’s advocate or a youth advocate?**

A: The subgrantee organization itself must provide services to sexual assault victims of all ages. The specific subgrant, however, may focus on a particular age group, such as children, youth, or elders.

**6: May SASP Formula Program funds be used for volunteer related expenses?**

A: Yes, SASP funds may be used to support volunteer-related activities, so long as those volunteers provide direct services for victims. Examples would include training volunteers to provide crisis intervention and supervision of those volunteers.

**7: Are governmental agencies that provide rape crisis services eligible to apply for subgrants?**

A: Yes, governmental agencies may receive SASP subgrants if they meet the definition of “rape crisis center” in 42 U.S.C. 13925(a)(25). This provision states that “the term ‘rape crisis center’ means a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal organization, *or governmental entity* in a state other than a territory that provides intervention and related assistance, as specified in 42 U.S.C. 14043g(b)(2)(C), to victims of sexual assault without regard to their age. *In the case of a government entity, the entity may not be a part of the criminal justice system (such as a law enforcement agency) and must be able to offer a comparable level of confidentiality as a nonprofit entity that provides similar victim services.*” Intervention and related assistance listed at 42 U.S.C. 14043g(b)(2)(C) include 24-hotline services, accompaniment and advocacy, crisis intervention, individual and group support services, comprehensive service coordination, information and reference, culturally-specific services, and development of outreach materials related to these services. Please note that rape crisis centers in the United States must be nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations.

**8: Is there a limitation on the types of sexual violence SASP Formula Program funds may be used to address?**

A: No. SASP Formula Program Funds may be used to address intimate partner, stranger and non-stranger sexual assault, as well as adult, adolescent, and child sexual violence, regardless when the assault occurred. Both male and female victims may be served.

**9: May SASP funds be used to address domestic violence?**

A: No. Funds must be used to provide services to victims of sexual assault. In cases when victims of domestic violence disclose a history of sexual assault, including by a current or former intimate partner, services may be provided with SASP funding to the extent that such

victim expresses a need for services related to the sexual assault. For example, SASP funds could support accompaniment of victims to sexual assault forensic medical exams but could not be used to support a general domestic violence-related crisis shelter.

**10: May SASP Formula Program funds be used for advocate/staff training?**

A: SASP funds may be used to train program staff (volunteer or employee) who will provide specific grant-funded victim services but may not be used to provide a generalized statewide training. For example, funds may be used to support skill-building training on providing sexual assault advocacy services or training on a particular therapeutic technique to assist SASP-funded counselors/therapists in providing more effective therapy. The amount of funds spent on training should represent only a small portion of the overall subgrant.

**11: May SASP Formula Program funds be used for trainings on sexual assault for other professionals (e.g., for law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, prosecutors etc.)?**

A: No, SASP funds must be used for direct services. They may not be used for general training nor may they be used to develop training curricula.

**12: May SASP Subgrantees 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 or the age of victimization. Both male and female victims may be served.

**13: May SASP Formula Program funds be used for Sexual Assault Nurse/Forensic Examiner programs?**

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 accompanying a victim through any aspect of the criminal justice system.

**14: May SASP Formula Program funds be used for Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)?**

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

**15: May SASP Formula Program 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 of the hotline should be pro-rated according to the percentage of calls that are for sexual assault. Moreover, for a multi-issue hotline to receive SASP funds, the employees or volunteers who staff the hotline would need to have sexual assault-specific training.

**16: May SASP Formula Program funds be used for women's only or men's only support groups?**

A: A recipient may provide women's only or men's only support groups, but only if it is necessary to the essential operation of the program that these support groups be segregated by sex. Even if a recipient can establish that sex-specific support groups are necessary to the essential operation of the program, the recipient is still required to provide "comparable services" to victims who cannot be served by the sex-specific support groups. For more

information about a recipient's option to provide services in a sex-segregated or sex-specific manner and its obligation to provide comparable services, please see the FAQ's on the Nondiscrimination Grant Condition in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/faqs-ngc-vawa.pdf>.

**17: How long is “short-term counseling?”**

A: Up to one year.

**18: Are universities eligible for subgrants?**

A: Universities are eligible for subgrants only if they meet the definition of “rape crisis center” provided in the response to question 7, above, and are using the SASP funds to provide intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault.

**19: Can SASP Formula Program funds awarded to subgrantees be used towards such items such as rent, office supplies, computer equipment, or office furniture?**

A: Yes, if the subgrant is also funding a staff or contract position to provide direct services. The office space and other office items (e.g., computer, phone, desk, etc.) associated with this position may be charged to the grant.

**EXAMPLE PROJECTS**

Example projects may include but are not limited to the following:

- Counseling services for sexual assault victims
- Advocacy services for sexual assault victims to include regular staff and relief staff

The Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative provides further information on how victim service agencies can build comprehensive sexual assault services within their programs.

More information can be found at the following link:

[http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/nsvrc\\_publications\\_article\\_sadi\\_building-comprehensive-sexual-assault-programs.pdf](http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/nsvrc_publications_article_sadi_building-comprehensive-sexual-assault-programs.pdf).

**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 23, 2015**. 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 11, 2015.** 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](mailto:Jacqueline.Hunter@dac.state.ok.us).