KATHRYN B. BREWER

Executive Coordinator

ERIC EPPLIN

Assistant Executive Coordinator



STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL

421 NW 13th Street, Suite 290 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

EXECUTIVE 405-264-5000 **FAX** 405-264-5099 FINANCE 405-264-5004 405-264-5099 GRANTS 405-264-5008 405-264-5099

VICTIMS 405-264-5006 405-264-5097

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

for the

2024-2025 SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The District Attorneys Council announces the opening of the 2024/25 Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant Application. The Office on Violence Against Women has not yet released the SASP allocations for the 2024/25 grant cycle but the amount awarded to subgrantees for the 2022/23 grant cycle was \$779,882.30. The DAC is accepting grant proposals in advance of the allocation announcement.

Funding will include 2023 SASP funding, estimated 2024 SASP funding, as well as rollover 2021 and 2022 SASP funding.

TWO-YEAR AWARDS

SASP awards will be for a two-year time period. The award period will be January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025. Year two (2) funding (2024 funds) will be contingent upon receiving funds from the Department of Justice.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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

PROGRAM SCOPE

Activities supported by this program are determined by statute, federal regulations, and OVW policies. If an applicant receives an award, the funded project is bound by the <u>DOJ Financial Guide</u>, including updates to the financial guide after an award is made, the <u>Solicitation Companion Guide</u>, and the conditions of the award.

PURPOSE AREAS

Pursuant to <u>34 U.S.C. 12511(a)(1)</u>, funds under this program must be used to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance to:

Adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault.

- Family and household members of such victims.
- Those collaterally affected by the victimization, except for the perpetrator of such victimization.

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant funds must be used to support the 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. 34 U.S.C. § 12511(b)(1).

SASP Formula grants shall be used by states and territories to provide grants to rape crisis centers and other non-profit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs for programs and activities that provide direct intervention and related assistance. 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 to victims of sexual assault without regard to their age. In the case of a governmental entity, the entity may not be 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. See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30). Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12511(b)(2)(C), intervention and related assistance may include:

- 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referrals;
- Accompaniment and advocacy through the medical, criminal justice, and social support 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 family or household members;
- Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim and 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.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 added "direct payments" to the list of items that may constitute "intervention and related assistance" for victims of sexual assault under the SASP statute. Direct payments to victims and their family or household members must be for costs related to the sexual assault.

Programs that are funded to provide this assistance will only be funded with SASP 23 and 24 funds and not rollover funds.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT BOARD PRIORITIES

The Violence Against Women Grant Board, comprised of seven (7) members, is charged with developing and reviewing grant proposals and determining funding awards. The Board has set the following as funding priorities:

- 1. Provide advocacy and support to victims of sexual assault.
- Improve access to and awareness of direct advocacy services, counseling, safety planning, language services, and other resources for women who are members of underserved and minority populations.
- 3. Enhance the capacity of professionals who impact victims of sexual assault through education and training.

ACTIVITIES THAT COMPROMISE VICTIM SAFETY AND RECOVERY OR UNDERMINE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY

OVW and the DAC do not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions. OVW and the DAC will support survivor-centered alternative pathways to justice and non-criminal approaches to accountability that fall within the statutory scope of this program. Information on activities that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability may be found in the <u>Solicitation Companion Guide</u>.

OUT OF SCOPE ACTIVITIES

The activities listed below are out of the program scope and will not be supported by SASP funding.

- Research projects. Funds under this program may not be used to conduct research, defined in 28 C.F.R. § 46.102 as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Surveys and focus groups depending on their design and purpose, may constitute research and therefore be out of scope. Prohibited research does not include assessments conducted for internal improvement purposes only. Applicants considering such assessments must refer to the OVW research decision tree in the Solicitation Companion Guide to ensure that the activity does not qualify as human subjects research.
- Activities focused on prevention efforts and public education (e.g., bystander intervention, social norms campaigns, presentations on healthy relationships, etc.).
- Criminal justice-related projects, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and forensic interviews.
- Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examiner programs.
- Sexual Assault Response Team coordination.
- Providing training to allied professions and the community (e.g., law enforcement, child protection services, prosecution, other community-based organizations, etc.).
- Domestic violence services unrelated to sexual violence.

UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER (UEI)

All applicants are required to include their UEI in their application. The UEI is a 12-character alphanumeric ID recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. Obtaining a UEI is free and applications should be made as soon as possible. To obtain a UEI or to see if the applicant agency already has a UEI, go to https://sam.gov/content/home. **Applications without a UEI will not be reviewed.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The SASP FAQs are available from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) at https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2014/10/07/sasp-faq_final.pdf.

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.

MATCH REQUIREMENT

There is no match requirement on the SASP grant.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Both the Federal Grants Division, including the governing board, and the applicant must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the performance of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of awards. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of an award supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from an entity considered for a contract/award. The officers, employees, and agents of both the Federal Grants Division, including the governing Board and the applicant must neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-federal entity.

INDIRECT COSTS

Organizations, including both a) non-profit agencies and b) state and local units of government and federally recognized tribal governments that receive less than \$35 million in direct federal funding AND which do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate with a cognizant agency, may elect to use a de minimis indirect cost rate of between 1 and 10 percent. Documentation of this decision must be kept on file.

State, local, and federally recognized tribal governments that receive more than \$35 million in direct federal funding and have never negotiated an indirect cost rate must submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency for approval. For some agencies, this may be the District Attorneys Council. Once the rate is approved, a copy of the agreement must be submitted with the application.

All organizations that currently have a negotiated indirect cost rate with a cognizant agency must indicate this in the application and submit a copy of the agreement.

A list of federal cognizant agencies can be found at: https://www.dol.gov/oasam/boc/dcd/dcd-agency-list.htm

For more information on indirect costs, see 2 CFR Part 200, http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl

TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

Applications for the SASP Program are available through the OKGrants Online System and will be open beginning **June 1, 2023**. Applications must be completed and submitted through this on-line system unless you don't have internet access. If you **do not** have internet access, please email dac-grants@dac.state.ok.us to request a paper application.

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 in OKGrants is 11:59 p.m., August 2, 2023. Any application received after this time and date will not be reviewed. Proposals received via mail, email (other than OKGrants) hand delivery, fax machine or on a jump drive will not be reviewed unless you don't have internet access and have requested a paper application. Paper applications must be postmarked by August 2, 2023.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>

For further information, contact Laura Russell, Grant Programs Specialist, Federal Grants Division, Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, at 405/264-5008, or via email at laura.russell@dac.state.ok.us. For well written examples from previous applications of goals and objectives, budget narrative, trauma informed narrative, underserved populations narrative, reporting requirements, and problem statement/project description please send a request to dac-grants@dac.state.ok.us.