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2016 - 2018

# 2018 Biennial Report

The 2018 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of  
**Grant Programs Under the Violence Against Women Act**

United States Department of Justice  
**Office on Violence Against Women**

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## Acknowledgments

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) gratefully acknowledges the work of the staff of the Violence Against Women Act Measuring Effectiveness Initiative at the Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine (Muskie School); the staff played a central role in the development of this report to Congress.

In addition, we wish to express our appreciation to the VAWA grantees who collected and reported the data on which this report is based. Their efforts, and the data and stories they share about responding to domestic/sexual violence, demonstrate the effectiveness of VAWA funding across the country, and highlight where work remains to be done.

Laura L. Rogers  
Acting Director  
Office on Violence Against Women  
U.S. Department of Justice

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# Considerations for the Reader

In response to the reporting requirements authorized by VAWA 2000, the 2018 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Funds under the Violence Against Women Act (2018 Biennial Report) presents aggregate qualitative and quantitative data submitted by grantees of 21 currently and formerly authorized discretionary grant programs administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). This report also presents current research on best practices to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, which OVW uses to invest in proven strategies and solutions to further the common goal of ending domestic and sexual violence.

The following sections outline key notes for the reader to consider when reviewing the 2018 Biennial Report.

## The Scope and Burden of Violence

- VAWA addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, all of which predominantly victimize women. However, VAWA programs and policies serve all victims of these crimes, including men.
- For brevity, these crimes are referred to throughout this report as “domestic/sexual violence.”

## Data Presentation

- Prevalence data are presented to the tenth decimal place where possible, and presented as whole integers if unavailable.
  - For example: *In 2014, The National Violence Death Review Reporting System (NVDRS) analyzed data from 18 participating states and found that strangulation, hanging, and suffocation account for 8.6% of female homicides annually.*
- Each chapter presents the most frequently reported data (for example, purpose areas or victim services). For more information about the types of data that grantees provide, refer to the sample forms located on the VAWA MEI website: <https://www.vawamei.org/tools-resources/>.
- Grantee data are often presented as totals across the two-year reporting period.

- For example: *Grantees received a total of **575,162** hotline calls.*
- In some cases, a total is not available. Some victims may seek multiple services in a given reporting period, or seek services over multiple reporting periods. In those cases, a calculated average across the four six-month reporting periods is presented.
  - For example: *During each six-month reporting period, on average, Legal Assistance for Victims Program grantees provided services to **28,204** victims.*
- Grantee data are presented as whole integers.
  - For example: ***102** Improving Criminal Justice Response, Rural, and Tribal Governments grantees used funds for law enforcement activities; these grantees supported a semi-annual average of **45** full-time equivalent (FTE) law enforcement officers.*
  - In some cases, due to rounding, “nearly 100%” is used to indicate that percentages are greater than or equal to 99.5%, but less than 100%.
    - For example: *Nearly **100%** of child victims who sought services received them during each six-month period.*
  - Additionally, due to rounding, percentages may add to more than 100%.
  - In other cases, due to rounding, numbers may appear the same while their percentages are different.
    - For example: *Supervised Visitation grant funds supported an average of **5** supervision staff (**20%**) and **5** program coordinators (**18%**) per each six-month reporting period.*
- Some grantees provide services to victims, children, and other dependents. In these program chapters, demographic tables, as opposed to charts, are displayed. Where they appear, these tables do not include the total for race as persons could select multiple racial categories.

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# Executive Summary

Congress first enacted the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994 to improve the nation's criminal justice response to violence against women, ensure services for victims, and create informed policy on the issue (Violence Against Women Act of 1994).

**PROGRAMS AND POLICIES AUTHORIZED BY VAWA AND SUBSEQUENT** legislation address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. They promote a coordinated community response to these crimes, meaning an approach in which law enforcement, victim services providers, prosecutors, courts, and others work together in a seamless, systemic way. Reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013, VAWA articulates Congress's commitment to effective strategies for preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence, holding offenders accountable, and ensuring safety, autonomy, and justice for victims.

## \$225 million in FY 2015

In Fiscal Year 2015, OVW made 472 discretionary awards totaling just under \$225 million.

## \$257 million in FY 2016

In Fiscal Year 2016, OVW made 550 discretionary awards totaling just over \$257 million.

## \$257 million in FY 2017

In Fiscal Year 2017, OVW made 534 discretionary awards totaling just over \$257 million.

## \$269 million in FY 2018

In Fiscal Year 2018, OVW made 535 discretionary awards totaling just over \$269 million.

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) administers grants under VAWA and provides technical assistance and training to grant recipients so that funds are used to support evidence-based interventions, when and where possible, and so that grantees can effectively combat these crimes in their communities. As of October 2018, OVW administers 15 statutorily authorized discretionary and four formula programs that provide grants to criminal justice agencies, victim services organizations, and other entities that address domestic and sexual violence.

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#### WA • Grantee Perspective

Receiving SASP funding allows Consejo Sexual Assault Program (SAP) staff to provide the Latino community with education, information, support groups, individual therapy for primary and secondary victims/survivors, and family support services free of charge. It allows Consejo to hire sexual assault-trained staff to provide assistance to an underrepresented population who otherwise would not have access to these services. It enables Consejo SAP staff to provide culturally appropriate services in Spanish, which in most cases is the native language of survivors coming from Mexico and Central America. Without this funding, Latino immigrants and refugees would not be able to receive services in Spanish or have a voice and be oriented to their rights as humans and within the legal-judicial system. Further, this funding allows Consejo to serve uninsured sexual assault survivors.

**CONSEJO COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICE,  
WASHINGTON (SASP-CS)**

OVW's grantmaking and technical assistance account for the unique ways—and in some cases disproportionate rates at which—these victimizations affect underserved and vulnerable populations, including women of color, women living in poverty, American Indian and Alaska Native women, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals. In developing programs and policies, OVW also considers the particular impact of domestic and sexual violence on men and boys, immigrants, residents of rural areas, elderly, youth, or college students to ensure that services and justice solutions address their needs.

Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017, over **2,000** grantees and technical assistance providers reported their VAWA-funded accomplishments and challenges. This Executive Summary is a synopsis of efforts funded through VAWA over this two-year period to help people and communities recover from the destructive and pervasive effects of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The accompanying 2018 Biennial Report to Congress (2018 Biennial Report) includes detailed descriptions of grantees' accomplishments and aggregated data on their work spanning the two years. This summary and the full report include snapshots of the ways grantees are using VAWA funds to help victims and administer justice.

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# The Scope and Burden of Violence



## Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The current funding has allowed our Tribal Coalition to continue our services, maintain our office, and expand our staff. More importantly, the funding for Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition has provided our communities, families, and Tribal governments with a unified tribal women's voice. This coalition funding has allowed nine reservations to come together and be representatives for their women and young girls. Our services and technical assistance have expanded outside of the nine reservations and spread throughout San Diego County, encompassing eighteen reservations.

**STRONG HEARTED NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION  
(TRIBAL COALITIONS PROGRAM)**

OVW relies on current national data and empirical research to inform its understanding of the scope and nature of domestic and sexual violence in the United States. National surveys administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) measure the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and some of the adverse outcomes associated with those victimizations. National data and research findings, taken with numerical and narrative information that VAWA-funded grantees report about the victims they serve and the services they provide, paint a picture of a persistent criminal justice and public health problem for which solutions—however innovative and effective—are in limited supply.

OVW primarily uses two national measures of incidence and prevalence to estimate the extent of domestic and sexual violence. Because one is health-based and the other is criminal justice-based, these surveys generate different data on rates of violence. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is a telephone survey that collects information from people ages 18 and older about their experiences of sexual violence, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. The NISVS makes national- and state-level data available simultaneously and contributes to an understanding of the impact of violence and abuse on distinct populations. Whereas the NISVS takes a public health approach to measuring incidence and prevalence, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) represents a criminal justice perspective. Through household telephone surveys, the NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes, including those reported and not reported to law enforcement, against people ages 12 and older.

Other national data sets, such as the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uses to publish statistics on crimes known to law enforcement, and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), which monitors behaviors that contribute to violence among youth, are also used to further understand the extent to which sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking affect millions of people in the United States and the considerable impact of violence and abuse on communities.

OVW uses the findings of studies funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and other federal agencies to further inform its grantmaking. These studies describe the dynamics and impact of domestic and sexual violence, including perpetrator behavior and characteristics, physical and mental health outcomes among victims and their children, criminal justice processes and outcomes, and the effectiveness of system- and community-based





### CA • Grantee Perspective

Campus Program funding has allowed for the expansion of our Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (CARE) team to include specialized prevention staff, and allowed advocates to focus on service delivery. This means advocate staff are less likely to have to balance prevention trainings with the sometimes competing needs of survivors. This growth supports staff to specialize in their areas of expertise and create clearly defined roles in the department which will support organization, morale, and retention.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA  
(CAMPUS PROGRAM)**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments Program funding has been critical in moving toward the sustainability of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' victim services programs. Eighty-four survivors were provided services during this semi-annual reporting period, which was a substantial increase from the 63 survivors that were provided services during the last reporting period. Of these 84 survivors, there was a total of 65 minor children that the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) believes were secondary beneficiaries of the support services that were received by their parents. In summary, OVV funding has allowed the ARC to provide a total of 149 Sault Tribe community members supportive services that may have otherwise not been received.

**SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS  
(TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**

interventions to prevent and respond to domestic and sexual violence and hold offenders accountable.

OVV launched its Research and Evaluation Initiative in 2016 to study effective approaches to combatting domestic and sexual violence. The purpose of the Initiative is to generate more knowledge about strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable, thereby equipping communities with information to better align their work with practices that are known to be effective while also increasing grantees' ability to generate empirical knowledge on the efficacy of their work.

## Effectiveness of VAWA Discretionary Grant Funding

VAWA grants are critical to addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. They funded an average of **2,918** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each six-month reporting period, including attorneys for victims, victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), program coordinators, and administrative staff. VAWA provides funding for training, materials, equipment and supplies, and other necessities for responding effectively inside and outside the justice system. Funding is used in some places to enhance existing programs and services, while in other places it is used to fill gaps in services or establish programs where none existed. To the extent possible, OVV prioritizes funding for programs and practices that research has shown to work.

Grants are awarded under discretionary programs according to the eligibility criteria defined in each program's statute. Grants are typically awarded for a two- or three-year period, and grantees can usually apply for continuation funding. In addition to administering formula and discretionary programs authorized by VAWA, OVV supports several special initiatives designed to address emerging issues in the field (e.g., the need for more comprehensive services for sexual assault victims) and to enhance victim services and offender accountability through promising and/or evidence-based approaches (e.g., domestic violence homicide reduction). The next sections summarize the types and quantities of activities funded by VAWA during the two-year period covered by this report.

## Criminal Justice Response

Over the past 20+ years, VAWA funding has transformed how criminal justice systems in many communities respond to domestic and sexual violence. Some of the innovations funded by VAWA are law enforcement collaboration with victim services providers and healthcare professionals, use of evidence-based lethality assessments to curb domestic violence-related homicides, improved medical forensic examinations for sexual assault victims, investigation and prosecution policies and practices that focus on the offender and account for the effects of trauma on victims, specialized law enforcement and prosecution units, specialized courts and dockets, enhanced offender monitoring

strategies, and improved training opportunities for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges.

In addition, grantees' reports demonstrate that VAWA-funded criminal justice solutions are evolving alongside the changing dynamics of violence and victimization, and are being used to address domestic and sexual violence as they intersect with challenges such as cyberstalking and with advances in forensic science. In the two years covered by this report, VAWA-funded grantees funded under the Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Program<sup>i</sup> reported the following accomplishments in violence against women cases:

- Law enforcement made **48,413** arrests, including **5,445** for protection order violations;
- Prosecutors disposed of **90,734** cases, of which **49%** resulted in convictions;
- Courts disposed of **3,139** criminal cases, of which **38%** resulted in convictions;
- Courts engaged in judicial monitoring of a semi-annual average of **960** offenders for compliance with court-ordered conditions at **9,462** individual review hearings;
- Probation agencies supervised a semi-annual average of **4,684** offenders and conducted a total of **226,823** monitoring activities; and
- Supervised offenders who did not attend mandatory batterer intervention, engaged in new criminal behavior, or violated protection orders or another condition of probation had their probation revoked more than half (**68%**) of the time.

## Services for Victims and Families

VAWA grant funds are used to provide services to victims and their families as they cope with the immediate and often long-term impact of violence in their lives. These services help victims stay safe and establish independence after leaving an abusive relationship, and they connect victims with resources to support their recovery and, if they choose, pursuit of justice. Direct services funded through VAWA include:

- Crisis intervention to help victims deal with their immediate needs after being victimized, find resources, and plan for safety in the aftermath of violence;
- Legal advocacy and representation in civil and criminal matters, which help victims navigate the legal system and obtain favorable outcomes in their cases;
- Assistance with obtaining orders of protection, which are one of the most frequently sought legal remedies for domestic violence victims and have been shown to reduce further violence and improve quality of life for victims;



### VT • Grantee Perspective

By designating one judge to hear related cases involving domestic violence, an effective Integrated Domestic Violence Docket (IDVD) promotes: informed judicial decision-making and consistent handling of cases by obtaining comprehensive and up-to-date information on all issues involving the family; protects the rights of litigants by making legal representation or advice available to all parties; organizes a coordinated community response and greater collaboration between the court and agencies offering services; promotes victim safety and increased offender compliance through diligent monitoring of court orders; eliminates conflicting orders and employs swift and certain sanctions for violations of probation; and achieves efficient use of court resources by reducing the numbers of court appearances.

**VERMONT JUDICIARY COURTS (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**



### NV • Grantee Perspective

The funding has allowed us to dedicate investigative staff to cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, thus decreasing incident response time, increasing victim trust and cooperation, and enhancing victim safety and offender accountability. Consequently, our conviction rate jumped from 15% pre-Special Victims Response Team (SVRT) to between 80-98% during the course of this funding.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, NEVADA (RURAL PROGRAM)**

<sup>i</sup> Formerly the Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, this program was renamed beginning in FY 2016 to more accurately reflect the scope of the program. Throughout this report, the program will be referred to as ICJR.



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding allows the Kalispel Tribe Victim Assistance Services program to continue vital services, including counseling, support groups, and crisis intervention, as well as civil and criminal legal, medical, and cultural advocacy. Financial assistance continues to be significant to victims who are leaving their abusive situation and procuring adequate housing for themselves and their children. This assistance may consist of rental and deposit assistance, utility assistance, gas and food vouchers, toiletries, and emergency clothing. We collaborate with surrounding agencies for referral services and safety options, and we build strong trust relations with community members. Mobile advocacy is the most effective way we provide services, as we meet clients where they feel most safe and it allows the victims/survivors the confidentiality they feel they do not have at our local office, which is very visible from the highway in our rural area. As transportation continues to be a huge barrier for many victims, this funding has allowed us to purchase a vehicle so we are able to transport victims/survivors to essential appointments and, in turn, build a trusting relationship with them.

#### KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Coalitions funding allows Hopi-Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse (HTWCEA) to maintain our efforts to educate the public, train service providers, and engage Hopi tribal leadership in the movement to end violence against Native women. We have been successful in promoting our education activities and bringing more service providers to the table within the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). We have enhanced our programs to elders, adults, and youth in interactive workshops to build cultural awareness, wellness, self-care, and prevention education. We continue to grow the capacity of our staff, membership, and board of directors to be active in social change, systems advocacy, and a stronger voice for victims and survivors.

#### HOPI-TEWA WOMEN'S COALITION TO END ABUSE (TRIBAL COALITIONS PROGRAM)

- Shelter and transitional housing for victims fleeing abuse, with accompanying services to help them find employment and permanent housing for themselves and their children; and
- Supervised visitation and monitored custody exchanges, which account for the elevated risk of violence and homicide faced by victims and their children during the post-separation period.

VAWA-funded grantees provided more than **1 million** services to victims in the two years covered by this report. On average, they provided services to **112,302** individuals during each six-month reporting period, including an average of **103,881** primary victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or child or elder abuse; as well as victims' children.<sup>ii</sup> The services that VAWA-funded grantees provided to victims and family members most often were:

- Housing bed nights: **1,260,316**
- Hotline calls: **575,162**
- Victim advocacy: **268,763**
- Crisis intervention: **156,541**
- Civil legal advocacy: **88,428**
- Criminal justice advocacy: **70,683**

## Coordinated Community Response

VAWA-funded grantees are required to work in meaningful ways with community partners to ensure an effective, coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic and sexual violence. VAWA-funded grantees provide information on their partnerships and collaborative efforts with their applications for funding and over the course of their projects.

Multidisciplinary teams shape local approaches for preventing and responding to violence and abuse, provide cross-disciplinary training so each member understands the others' roles, facilitate referrals, and assess gaps and weaknesses in the community's response. An example of a CCR often funded by VAWA is the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). SARTs are designed to meet victims' needs, improve investigation and prosecution, and foster accountability for each system involved. Another example is domestic violence fatality review teams, which determine what led to a domestic violence homicide and aim to correct system deficiencies identified in the process. Grantees report that collaboration with community partners improves the quality of services and the effectiveness of the justice system response.

<sup>ii</sup> Reporting forms count victims served by "primary"—or "presenting"—victimization, meaning the victimization for which the person first requested services. However, grantees serve victims who need assistance with multiple and co-occurring victimizations. For example, a grantee might provide transitional housing to a domestic violence victim while also offering her/him counseling services related to sexual assault.

The following agencies and organizations are among those that met regularly with VAWA-funded grantees during the two-year reporting period to address systems-level issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking:

- Domestic violence organizations/programs;
- Law enforcement agencies;
- Social service organizations;
- Health/mental health organizations;
- Prosecution offices;
- Sexual assault organizations/programs;
- Courts; and
- Legal services organizations.

## Services for and Response to Underserved and Other Vulnerable Populations

Victims' experiences and a growing body of research confirm that certain populations are victimized by violence and abuse—and report it—at different rates and may have less favorable experiences with the criminal justice system when they report. The ways that victims experience, resist, and survive violence can be shaped by a host of cultural, social, and economic factors.

Thus, funds authorized by Congress through VAWA are used to address unique challenges that people from underserved and marginalized populations face when they are victimized. Grantees are encouraged—and in many cases are required—to conduct culturally and linguistically specific outreach to these populations and to develop policies, practices, and resources that ensure these victims can access services and that their abusers are held accountable.

During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees served:<sup>iii</sup>

- **9,349** victims who identified as American Indians or Alaska Natives;
- **4,625** victims who identified as Asian;
- **17,491** victims who identified as Black or African American;
- **24,062** victims who identified as Latinx or Hispanic;
- **564** victims who identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander;
- **4,778** victims who were children or youth (infancy to age 17);<sup>iv</sup>
- **4,630** victims who were 60 or older;
- **8,655** victims with disabilities;



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Without the Tribal Governments Program funding, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation would only be able to offer a very limited domestic violence program. With funding, the Nation has been able to form partnerships with other Tribes and jurisdictions across the region, to offer comprehensive victim/survivor services, to engage the Ceremonial community in supporting the program and engaging in community awareness activities, to network with other domestic violence shelters and programs, and to assist dozens of victims/survivors with critical services.

**SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**



### IL • Grantee Perspective

SASP Culturally Specific Program funding allows us to provide services to survivors of sexual violence with ongoing mental health issues. The majority of our participants are struggling economically and would not have sought therapy if it was not available locally in our community. Our service is delivered by Master level staff, who are equipped to better understand the struggles of survivors of sexual violence with mental health issues. Additionally, our services integrate interventions that are culturally appropriate to our community. Providing a safe place in the community that is culturally specific to the needs of Latina survivors has a positive impact in their lives.

**MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCION, ILLINOIS (SASP-CS)**

<sup>iii</sup> Victims were reported once in each race/ethnicity category that applied.

<sup>iv</sup> These numbers do not include children and youth indirectly exposed to violence who were served (1,260) by Consolidated Youth and STEP grantees.



### CO • Grantee Perspective

Rural Program funding has had a significant impact across rural Colorado during this reporting period, providing the personnel, training and technical assistance, and resources to increase victim safety and well-being through Coordinated Community Response Teams in four project sites, and through technical assistance and training provided to eight other communities. This funding has increased culturally and linguistically engaging outreach and advocacy for Spanish-speaking populations in four project sites through a Latina Outreach Program, provided funding for rural Latina advocates to fully participate in a statewide Latina Leadership Summit, and advance the network and leadership capacity of Latina advocates who work with underserved and immigrant victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

**COLORADO COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (RURAL PROGRAM)**



### DE • Grantee Perspective

Grant funds have provided training for campus police, who now actively participate in prevention education programs and provide services to survivors. DSU Police Department has established a “Life Center” where students can stay for some time to work through the trauma that they experience as a result of sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. The Life Center consists of a bedroom, kitchenette, bathroom, and living room area with a computer, TV, etc. Students can request to have food delivered to them at this very private location. The facility will hopefully prevent students from having to go home or drop out of school. A parent is also permitted to spend the night with their student if the student chooses.

**DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY (CAMPUS PROGRAM)**

- **17,577** victims with limited English proficiency;
- **16,577** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers;
- **28,232** victims who lived in rural areas;
- **8,760** victims who identified as male; and
- **326** victims who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ).<sup>y</sup>

## Technical Assistance

OVW funds technical assistance providers (TA providers) to offer VAWA-funded grantees training, site visits, tools and resources, and consultation with experts to help them effectively respond to domestic and sexual violence. Technical assistance is designed to enhance and support grantees’ implementation of their VAWA-funded projects and thereby maximize the impact of grant funding. In addition, technical assistance supports grantees in building organizational and community capacity to address domestic and sexual violence with a goal of creating sustainable improvements that last beyond the grant period.

In shaping its Technical Assistance Initiative, OVW solicits input from grantees to ensure that training and other technical assistance is responsive to their needs, promotes good practices, and helps them implement their OVW-funded grant activities most effectively.

The following technical assistance activities were reported by TA providers during the two-year reporting period:

- Training events: **4,037**
- People trained with TA funds: **253,460**

## Education, Awareness, and Prevention

Community education, awareness-raising, and prevention activities funded by VAWA are designed to reduce violence through changing attitudes and beliefs that legitimize or promote domestic and sexual violence. Some promising approaches to this work involve engaging men and boys in advocacy and outreach, promoting bystander intervention, running social media campaigns, and organizing educational and mentoring programs.

<sup>y</sup> All grant programs serve victims of domestic/sexual violence who identify as LGBTQ. As of this report, data on the number of victims who identify as LGBTQ is only available from Consolidated Youth, Justice for Families, STEP, and Youth Services grantees.



More than **1.2 million** individuals participated in VAWA-funded education, awareness, or prevention activities related to sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or child or elder abuse. Typically, these events and activities provided information about the nature and dynamics of these victimizations, available resources, and strategies for prevention.

Of these individuals:

- **217,182** were elementary, middle, or high school students;
- **450,950** were college students; and
- **540,591** were other youth, professionals, and community members.

## Training for Professionals

Victims have contact with a range of professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, health and mental health professionals, and others. Victims' experiences with these people can have a profound effect on their recovery and their willingness to assist the criminal justice system. Whether it is a police officer responding to a call, a nurse conducting a sexual assault medical forensic exam, or a judge hearing a case that involves a history of domestic violence, it is critical that each person responds appropriately, makes informed decisions, and prevents further harm. Ongoing training plays a crucial role in equipping people to respond to violence. The majority of OVW-funded programs support training for professionals who work directly with victims.

During the two-year period covered by this report, VAWA-funded grantees used funds to train a total of **714,768** service providers, criminal justice personnel, and other professionals to improve their response to victims. People trained included the following:

- Victim advocates and other advocacy organization staff: **169,886**
- Law enforcement officers: **91,074**
- Health/mental health professionals, including forensic nurse examiners: **59,915**
- Attorneys and law students: **44,163**
- Educators (K–12), university faculty, and university staff: **40,808**
- Court personnel, including judges: **18,909**
- Prosecutors: **15,936**
- Child protective services (CPS) workers and child advocates: **14,597**
- Volunteers: **13,014**
- Corrections staff: **12,962**
- Faith-based organization staff: **7,955**



### FL • Grantee Perspective

State Coalitions Program funding has allowed the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) to support Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers in developing high-quality services and well-trained staff. This funding is used by FCADV to provide training and technical assistance regarding the centers' self-identified areas of need for advocates, executive directors, and boards of directors. For example, this funding supports the increase of legal technical assistance to certified centers and legal providers in Florida. Throughout the year, technical assistance has been provided to the 42 certified domestic violence centers regarding many different topics such as confidentiality, Chapter 39 injunctions, subpoenas, Fair Housing, and more.

**FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (STATE COALITIONS PROGRAM)**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments funding meets a vital need for many victims living in rural areas: transportation. Since public transportation is almost non-existent, this funding allows the program to hire a full-time transportation aide to ensure program participants can access resources, emergency shelter, medical assistance, counseling, etc. This grant provides expansion of sexual assault services to Native victims via SANEs. Prior to this program, SANE exams were only offered at the local community hospital, 40 miles or more away. Now, the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center has five fully trained SANE nurses and SANE services have been in full operation since October 2012. Grant funding also assists with SANE supplies and training for those providing the exams. This grant has allowed the Chickasaw Nation Violence Prevention Center to be instrumental in implementing and maintaining the SANE program at our tribal hospital, ensuring SANE exams are available 24 hours a day for our Native women and the services provided are victim-centered and culturally appropriate.

**CHICKASAW (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Safe, affordable housing also continues to be an unmet need for many victims of domestic violence throughout New York City, and Staten Island is no exception. For victims with limited financial resources, there are few options for renting apartments. With long wait lists for public housing and fewer beds in domestic violence shelters than can meet the demand, many victims must turn to the city's homeless shelter system for housing or else continue to live with an abusive partner. For victims in Staten Island, seeking safe housing often means having to leave the borough, which may in turn require changing employment, schools, medical providers, and being separated from a support system.

SAFE HORIZON, INC., NEW YORK (ICJR)



### D.C. • Grantee Perspective

In terms of complex custody litigation, the law is rapidly changing, especially as it relates to LGBT survivors and their families. Additionally, many legal services organizations are not structured to provide sufficient mentorship, education and training to new attorneys working on complex family law matters, including defending survivors against claims of “parental alienation syndrome” or “parental alienation.” Immigrant survivors have complex family law needs that demand a better legal response than some court systems are able to provide.

ABA COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)



### OR • Grantee Perspective

Enhanced and expanded supervised visitation and safe exchange services continue to be a need in the Portland Metro Area. Safety First has operated at capacity for several months and now has a lengthy wait list for services. The program stopped accepting referrals for services in June 2016 due to a lack of program capacity. Services could not be expanded due to lack of staffing and funding to support that effort. The significant and ongoing increase in referrals demonstrates the need for supervised visitation and safe exchange services in this community.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY FAMILY COURT SERVICES, OREGON (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES)

## Remaining Areas of Need

VAWA-funded grantees are asked to identify in their reports what needs remain unmet. Their responses help OVW understand the emerging and under-resourced issues faced by victims and the systems designed to serve them, and barriers to holding offenders accountable. Grantees identified the following critical areas of unmet need during the two-year reporting period:

- Sustaining core services for victims, particularly safe transitional and permanent housing;
- Addressing victims' basic needs, including food, shelter, transportation, mental health services, and child care;
- Providing culturally and linguistically competent services, outreach, and education, especially interpretation and translation;
- Providing services and support to immigrant and refugee victims and their communities, and improving training for service providers on the particular needs of these populations;
- Improving offender accountability through monitoring, batterer intervention programs (BIP), and stricter enforcement of protective orders;
- Ensuring that services are accessible to people with disabilities and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, and addressing the specific needs of elder victims;
- Providing civil legal representation for low-income victims in cases involving divorce, custody, and visitation;
- Mitigating barriers to consistent and comprehensive services for victims in rural areas and tribal communities, such as challenges to maintaining confidentiality and lack of transportation;
- Addressing high rates of attrition through the investigation and prosecution stages, including high rates of case rejections by prosecutors in some places;
- Managing frequent staff turnover and challenges recruiting, retaining, and funding qualified staff, particularly attorneys and victim advocates trained to work with limited English proficiency (LEP) and other underserved victims;
- Providing sufficient trauma-informed and evidence-based training to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges;
- Improving services to sexual assault and stalking victims, and encouraging reporting of these crimes;

- Making available comprehensive victim services to address substance abuse and mental health needs that co-occur with, or result from, victimization;
- Enhancing coordination and collaboration in general, and specifically building relationships between tribal communities and federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors; and
- Modernizing prevention and community education strategies to keep them relevant to young people's lives, and enhancing and institutionalizing these strategies on college campuses.

The 2018 Biennial Report includes aggregated data on activities funded by VAWA during the two-year reporting period, along with snapshots of the impact of VAWA on individual communities, organizations, and victims. The report reflects two years of collective efforts to respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking across the nation. It describes significant accomplishments that would not have been possible in the absence of VAWA funding, and highlights where much work remains to be done.



#### **TN • Grantee Perspective**

It is important that programs providing direct services across the state be supported with ongoing training opportunities adapted to meet the specific needs faced by their local communities. A need in improving domestic violence services includes increasing training for trauma-informed care to service providers, as well as offering survivors a trauma-informed response to violence. A need for increasing victim/survivor safety is more training to court officials to ensure every official is providing the necessary forms for Orders of Protection in a consistent and trauma-informed response.

**TENNESSEE COALITION TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (STATE COALITIONS PROGRAM)**

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# Introduction

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) marked an historic step forward in our nation's response to crimes of violence that predominantly victimize women (Violence Against Women Act of 1994).

**VAWA CHANGED THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE, CREATING POWERFUL criminal and civil enforcement tools for holding perpetrators accountable and for offering victims access to safety and justice. In addition, VAWA recognized that, given the strong social barriers that keep these crimes hidden, public support for specialized outreach, services, training, and enforcement is critically important to achieving the vision of a society that does not tolerate domestic and sexual violence and stalking.**

To this end, VAWA established formula and discretionary grant programs to help communities respond to these crimes and better address the needs of victims. The Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) awards grants to support states, territories, tribal communities, local government, educational institutions, and nonprofit victim services agencies across the country in developing innovative and effective strategies to respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.



## ME • Grantee Perspective

We believe that the ICJR Program funding has saved lives in our community. The Court employs and shares specialized domestic violence services to survivors, utilizes probation officers with specialized knowledge of the complex dynamics of domestic violence and stalking to assist survivors and hold offenders accountable, offering offenders a respectful opportunity to change by participating in long-term batterer intervention programs and other rehabilitative services. With the funding, judges and magistrates have received specialized education and are able to make more informed decisions. By coordinating our DV dockets, we maximize the ability of SafeHouse Center to staff our DV dockets and offer free, confidential safety planning, counseling, residential and non-residential services to survivors. The funding has greatly facilitated cross-jurisdictional collaboration between the courts and community partners to help make appropriate resources available to all DV survivors and offenders across a large geographical and multijurisdictional area.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE (ICJR PROGRAM)**

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA 2000) strengthened the original law by improving protections for battered immigrants, survivors of sexual assault, and victims of dating violence. VAWA 2000 also reauthorized key grant programs created by VAWA and subsequent legislation. It established programs to provide legal assistance for victims, and to address elder abuse, stalking, violence against individuals with disabilities, and safe visitation and exchange of children in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking (Violence Against Women Act of 2000).

*The National Congress of American Indians serves as a Resource Center for Implementing the Tribal Provisions of VAWA. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncai.org/tribal-vaawa/pilot-project-itwg/pilot-project>*

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005) improved and expanded legal tools and grant programs, reauthorized programs created by the original VAWA and subsequent legislation, and strengthened federal criminal laws and legal protections for immigrants (Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005). The Act also created new programs, with an increased emphasis on violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, as well as meeting the needs of sexual assault and youth victims.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013) made important changes and improvements to OVW-administered grant programs. It is the first federal funding statute to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation. VAWA 2013 included an historic provision to address a jurisdictional loophole by recognizing tribes' inherent authority to exercise "special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction" (SDVCJ) over both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners, or who violate certain protection orders in Indian Country. In addition, VAWA 2013 amended the federal assault statute to empower federal prosecutors to seek significant penalties for felony-level violence against a spouse, intimate partner, or dating partner committed in Indian Country, including a 10-year offense for assaulting an intimate partner by strangling or suffocating. VAWA 2013 also clarifies that VAWA funds can be used to assist victims with issues related to severe forms of trafficking co-occurring with domestic/sexual violence, and amended several grant program statutes to authorize the use of funds to serve victims of sex trafficking (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013).

To document the effect of VAWA funding, VAWA 2000 required the U.S. Attorney General to report biennially on the effectiveness of activities carried out with VAWA grant funds (Violence Against Women Act of 2000). Specifically, the statute provides:



#### **MT • Grantee Perspective**

One of the greatest benefits of OVW funding is access to training and technical assistance. Our grant partners have never struggled to take full advantage of the many learning opportunities available. For some agencies, such as the prosecutor's office and law enforcement agencies, OVW funding is the only source dedicated to domestic/sexual violence training. Were it not for Rural Program funding, those agencies would have no specialized training in domestic/sexual violence.

**SUPPORTERS OF ABUSE FREE ENVIRONMENTS,  
MONTANA (RURAL PROGRAM)**

**Reports by Grant Recipients.** The Attorney General or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall require grantees under any program authorized or reauthorized by this division [i.e., VAWA 2000] to report on the effectiveness of the activities accomplished with amounts made available to carry out that program, including number of persons served, if applicable; number of persons seeking services who could not be served; and such other information as the Attorney General or Secretary may prescribe.

**Reports to Congress.** The Attorney General or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall report biennially to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the authorized grant programs.

In response to these reporting requirements, OVW entered into a cooperative agreement with the Muskie School of Public Service, Catherine E. Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy (Muskie School) at the University of Southern Maine to develop and implement state-of-the-art reporting tools to capture data that demonstrate the effectiveness of VAWA grant funding.

## VAWA Funding

VAWA funding has been critical in addressing domestic and sexual violence. As of October 2018, OVW administers **19** statutorily authorized grant programs, **15** of which are discretionary. Additionally, OVW's portfolio includes active awards that were made under previously authorized programs, as well as a comprehensive technical assistance provider initiative (Technical Assistance Program) and several special initiatives. VAWA also funds four formula grant programs—STOP Violence Against Women (STOP Program), Sexual Assault Services (SASP Program), Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions (State Coalitions Program), and Grants to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Tribal Coalitions Program (Tribal Coalitions Program).

Discretionary grant funds are awarded to a variety of recipients. Eligibility for each program is defined by the program's federal statute. States, tribal governments, city and county governments, government agencies, universities, nonprofit organizations that serve victims, and others may apply for discretionary VAWA funding. Grants are typically awarded for a period of two or three years depending on the specific program, and grantees under most programs may apply for continuation funding.

During the July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017 reporting period, OVW administered **21** current and formerly authorized discretionary grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and subsequent legislation. These grant programs are designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic/sexual violence and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.

### Discretionary Grant Programs

- Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program (**Abuse in Later Life or ALL Program**)
- Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (**Campus Program**)
- Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies (**Consolidated Youth or CY Program**)
- Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (**Culturally Specific Services Program or CSSP**)
- Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Grant Program (**Disability Program**)
- Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (**Justice for Families or JFF Program**)



#### ME • Grantee Perspective

We use the OVW State Coalitions grant to fund work that we believe is critically important to effective response, yet which often can't otherwise be done. This includes three major initiatives: supporting effective statewide public policy and systems improvement; engaging in work that is specific to marginalized, underserved, or vulnerable victims of sexual assault; and supporting local sexual assault service providers to deliver crisis and support line services. Especially with regard to the first two efforts, the ability to dedicate significant staffing time to both of these initiatives has meant that the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) has grown into a state leader on both initiatives. More importantly, it has meant that MECASA is viewed not only as a collaborative partner, but is able to significantly contribute to the improvement of systems and services for survivors of sexual violence.

#### MAINE COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT (STATE COALITIONS PROGRAM)

*In addition to statutorily authorized programs, OVW funds several special initiatives to enhance victim safety and autonomy, to increase the availability of victim services, and to enhance offender accountability.*

## \$225 million in FY 2015

In Fiscal Year 2015, OVW made 472 discretionary awards totaling just under \$225 million.

## \$257 million in FY 2016

In Fiscal Year 2016, OVW made 550 discretionary awards totaling just over \$257 million.

## \$257 million in FY 2017

In Fiscal Year 2017, OVW made 534 discretionary awards totaling just over \$257 million.

## \$269 million in FY 2018

In Fiscal Year 2018, OVW made 535 discretionary awards totaling just over \$269 million.



### WV • Grantee Perspective

The landscape for addressing intimate partner violence (IPV) on West Virginia's campuses has changed because of this funding. Prior to this project, the majority of the project partners lacked sexual misconduct policies, prevention programs, and comprehensive intervention resources. Project funding has provided a mechanism to address these issues using a systematic approach. Most importantly, more victims are seeking and receiving support. Prior to this project, in a three year period (2007-2009), only one non-forcible rape and 8 forcible rapes were collectively reported in Clery Act crime data by our 9 campuses. During the first full 6 months of this project in 2013, the campuses had 28 IPV reports: 12 sexual assault, 11 dating/domestic violence; and 5 stalking. Two years later those reports increased by 61%, with stalking reports increasing by 160%.

**FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY, WEST VIRGINIA  
(CAMPUS PROGRAM)**

- Improving Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (**ICJR Program**)<sup>i</sup>
- Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (**LAV Program**)
- Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program (**Rural Program**)
- Sexual Assault Services Program—Grants to Culturally Specific Programs (**SASP-CS**)
- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (**Transitional Housing Program**)
- Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (**Tribal Governments Program**)
- Grants to Tribal Governments to Exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Program (**Tribal Jurisdiction Program**)
- Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (**T-SASP**)
- Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations (**Underserved Program**)

## Formerly Authorized Discretionary Grant Programs

- Grants to Assist Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (**Children Exposed to Violence or CEV Program**)
- Court Training and Improvements Program (**Courts Program**)
- Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (**Engaging Men and Youth or EMY Program**)
- Services, Training, Education, and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program (**STEP Program**)
- Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program (**Supervised Visitation Program**)
- Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Program (**Youth Services Program**)

<sup>i</sup> Formerly the Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, this program was renamed beginning in FY 2016 to more accurately reflect the scope of the program. Throughout this report, the program will be referred to as ICJR.



## Formula Grant Programs

- Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program (**State Coalitions Program**)
- Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program (**Tribal Coalitions Program**)
- STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (**STOP Formula Grant Program**)
- Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (**SASP Formula Grant Program**)

In addition, OVW administers the Technical Assistance Program (**TA Program**) to provide grantees with training and expertise they need to meet the challenges of addressing domestic/sexual violence and stalking.

This 2018 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs under the Violence against Women Act (2018 Biennial Report) describes data submitted by grantees of **21** current and formerly authorized discretionary grant programs. It also includes data submitted by State and Tribal Coalitions, and OVW's technical assistance providers. Data for each of these programs are provided in separate chapters of this report.

*Data from the STOP and SASP Formula Grant Programs are shared in separate biennial reports to Congress.*

*Full descriptions of OVW-administered grant programs can be found on the OVW website. For more information, visit: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>*

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# The Scope and Burden of Violence

## Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Sex Trafficking, and Stalking in the United States

Domestic and sexual violence have been major public policy issues in recent decades. These forms of violence encompass a range of crimes and related behaviors that primarily, but not exclusively, affect women and girls. They may be perpetrated by those closest to victims, by acquaintances, or by strangers. Offenders may use intimidation, threats, coercion, isolation, or other types of control to dominate victims. They may abuse their victims through physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or financial means. The violence is generally purposeful—designed to coerce, entrap, and subjugate victims, and to cause fear. It harms the body, mind, and spirit, and may result in severe trauma, protracted recovery, or permanent injuries. It is not uncommon for victims to suffer more than one type of victimization, or to be victimized by multiple perpetrators over their lifetimes. These forms of violence rarely occur as one-time incidents, but rather comprise behaviors that tend to be ongoing, repetitive, and patterned, and leave their victims vulnerable to further harm.

*The term “victim” is used in this report instead of “survivor” to emphasize that violence and abuse are criminal in nature and to account for victims who survive violence and those who do not.*

The economic costs of violence are far-reaching, too. Victims often suffer multiple financial losses. Batterers may control or limit their victims’ finances and assets, economically exploit them, or sabotage their employment (Adams, Beeble, & Gregory, 2015; Breiding, Basile, Klevens, & Smith, 2017; Eriksson & Ulmestig, 2017; Letourneau, Brown, Fang, Hassan, & Mercy, 2018; Postmus, Plummer, McMahan, Murshid, & Kim, 2012; Postmus, Hoge, Breckenridge, Sharp-Jeffs, & Chung, 2018; Ricks, Cochran, Arah, Williams, & Seeman, 2016; Sanders, 2015; Sauber & O’Brien, 2017; Wathen, MacGregor, & MacQuarrie, 2016). Violence carries a significant national, annual economic burden. In 2003, the cost of medical and mental health services and lost productivity related to intimate partner violence (measured in losses related to paid labor, household maintenance, and homicide) was estimated to be \$8.3 billion, or \$9.3 billion in 2017 dollars (Max, Rice, Finkelstein, Bardwell, & Leadbetter, 2004; McLean & Bocinski, 2017). However, emerging research shows that mobilizing economic support for victims—by removing financial constraints on health care services, supporting educational achievement, and developing employment skills—has the potential to improve victim well-being and lead to fiscal resource savings for governmental agencies (DeRiviere, 2015).

The adverse impact of domestic/sexual violence has a ripple effect, expanding well beyond victims to their children, other family members, workplaces, and communities, ultimately affecting all sectors of society. While violence touches all communities, victims from historically underserved populations may have familial, financial, cultural, and societal experiences and circumstances

that predispose them to poorer outcomes and greater barriers to accessing help from service providers and the justice system. For this reason, Congress authorized VAWA funding to assist historically underserved populations of victims with the unique challenges they face when seeking freedom from violence.

## Domestic Violence

Under VAWA, “domestic violence” includes “any felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction” (Violence Against Women Act of 1994). As with sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, domestic violence affects all segments of society regardless of socioeconomic status, age, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity.

Domestic/sexual violence affects millions of people in the United States every year. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) found that every minute, 20 people in the United States are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner (Breiding, Smith, Basile, Walters, Chen, & Merrick, 2014). One in four women and one in nine men experience physical violence, sexual violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lives (Smith et al., 2017). More than one-third of female domestic/sexual violence victims suffer multiple forms of physical and sexual violence and stalking, while the vast majority (92.1%) of male victims experience physical abuse alone (Black et al., 2011).

In addition to its immediate consequences, domestic violence affects the long-term physical and mental health of its victims (Sauber & O’Brien, 2017; Breiding et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2017; Bosch, Weaver, Arnold, & Clark, 2017; Maddoux, McFarlane, Symes, Fredland, & Feder, 2018; Simmons, Knight, & Menard, 2018; Lacey, McPherson, Samuel, Powell Sears, & Head, 2013). Victims may be fearful for their safety and have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. They may suffer physical harm, exhibit suicidal behavior, or miss work or school as a result of the violence inflicted by their partner. Women who are victims of domestic/sexual violence report higher rates of adverse health conditions, such as chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, irritable bowel syndrome, frequent headaches, diabetes, asthma, and activity limitations, than women who have not experienced abuse from an intimate partner. Victims may seek emergency department care at rates four times higher than the general population (Kothari et al., 2015).

Often coinciding with the physical and mental health consequences of domestic violence are the economic impacts of abuse. A victim’s efforts to secure and maintain employment may be compromised by a variety of

controlling tactics used by the abusive partner (Adams, Sullivan, Bybee, & Greeson, 2008). Victims may sustain physical and emotional injuries that require them to miss work, make it challenging to stay consistently employed, or make it difficult to concentrate while at work, and batterers may stalk or harass victims at their place of employment (Adams, Tolman, Bybee, Sullivan, & Kennedy, 2012; Borchers, Lee, Martsof, & Maler, 2016; Breiding et al., 2017). The resulting employment instability can lead to significant material hardship, decreased access to job benefits (e.g., health insurance, sick time, retirement), and a general decline in economic well-being (Crowne et al., 2011; Sauber & O'Brien, 2017; Thomas, Collier-Tenison, Maxwell, & Check, 2017). People grappling with food and housing insecurity may be at higher risk of domestic violence (Auffrey, Tutty, & Wright, 2017; Breiding et al., 2017; Ricks et al., 2016; Zufferey, Chung, Franzway, Wendt, & Moulding, 2016).

Strangulation is a particularly serious—even deadly—form of assault, and an unfortunately common way that abusers wield power and control over victims (Messing, Patch, Wilson, Kelen, & Campbell, 2018; Pritchard, Reckdenwald, & Nordham, 2015; Shields, Corey, Weakley-Jones, & Stewart 2010). Experiencing non-fatal strangulation is a significant risk factor for future domestic violence-related homicide (Koziol-McLain et al., 2006; Messing, Campbell, & Snider, 2017). Strangulation that is not immediately fatal can lead to serious physical and psychological health consequences, even resulting in death at a later time (Patch, Anderson, & Campbell, 2017; Wu, Zhang, Yun, Liu, & Yi, 2017). In 2014, The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) analyzed data from 18 participating states and found that strangulation, hanging, and suffocation accounted for 8.6% of female homicides annually (Fowler, Jack, Lyons, Betz, & Petrosky, 2018). Within the past 10 years, all 50 states have enacted or amended strangulation laws. Furthermore, VAWA 2013 made assault of a spouse or intimate partner by strangulation or suffocation a distinct federal crime (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013).

A victim's life may be in most danger when they attempt to leave or seek a protection order against their abuser; batterers may feel threatened and may rapidly escalate violence (Vittes & Sorenson, 2008). In 2015, 1,005 women were killed by their male partners and 265 men were killed by their female partners in the United States (Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 2015). A recent study by the NVDRS found that, among female homicide cases in which circumstances were known, more than half were related to domestic violence; further, racial/ethnic minority women between the ages of 18 and 29 confronted the highest rates of this type of violence (Petrosky et al., 2017). Emerging research shows that women's risk of being murdered by their intimate partners is highest in states with higher rates of firearms ownership (Siegel & Rothman, 2016; Zeoli, Malinski, & Turchan, 2016).

The impact of domestic violence homicide extends beyond its victims to their family members and communities (Holland, Brown, Hall, & Logan, 2018; Smith, Fowler, & Niolon, 2014). Research released by the NVDRS showed that about one-fifth (19.8%) of victims of domestic violence-related homicide were "corollary victims," or persons killed who were not the direct domestic violence victim (Smith et al., 2014). Almost half (48.8%) of these corollary victims were

family or household members. Of these family and household members, nearly half were minors, with more than one-third of these child victims elementary school aged or younger. Another quarter (27.0%) of corollary victims were new intimate partners of the victim or former intimate partners of the assailant's current partner.

## Dating Violence

“Dating violence,” which includes many elements of domestic violence, refers to violence committed by a person who is or has been in a romantic or intimate relationship with the victim. Dating violence often begins at a young age and involves teenagers or young adults.

Nearly one in four women and one in seven men who were victims of violence were less than 18 years old at the time of their first violent encounter (Breiding, Smith, et al., 2014). Dating violence is significantly associated with sexual victimization. About 71.1% of female victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner first experienced dating violence before the age of 25. Among female victims of rape, four in ten victims were first raped before age 18 (Smith et al., 2017).

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), a national CDC study of violence-related health risk behaviors among 9th-12th graders, found that among students who reported dating someone in the 12 months preceding the survey, 11% of females and 3% of males experienced sexual dating violence; 11% of females and 4% of males were forced to have sexual intercourse; and 9% of females and 7% of males experienced physical dating violence (Kann et al., 2018). Emerging research suggests that many youth, regardless of gender, both experience and perpetrate some form of dating violence (Karlsson, Temple, Weston, & Le, 2016; National Institute of Justice, 2017; Ybarra, Espelage, Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Korchmaros, & Boyd, 2016). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth experience teen dating violence at rates higher than their heterosexual peers, both by prevalence and frequency (Olsen, Vivolo-Kantor, & Kann, 2017).

The consequences of teen dating violence are serious. Teens who are abused by their dating partners are more likely to suffer poor health outcomes, including revictimization, depression, disordered eating, heavy drinking, smoking, and suicidal ideation (Bonomi, Anderson, Nemeth, Rivara, & Buettner, 2013; Clark et al., 2016; Exner-Cortens, Eckenrode, & Rothman, 2013; Loxton, Dolja-Gore, Anderson, & Townsend, 2017; Mugoya et al., 2017; Walsh et al., 2017). Adolescents who use substances are more likely to perpetrate relationship violence (Temple, Shorey, Fite, Stuart, & Le, 2013). Children exposed to violence, physical abuse, or familial violence may be at increased risk for perpetrating or being victims of teen dating violence (Cohen, Shorey, Menon, & Temple, 2018; Fawson, Jones, & Younce, 2017; Hebert, Moreau, Blais, Lavoie, & Guerrier, 2017; Jouriles, Mueller, Rosenfield, McDonald, & Dodson,

2012; Karlsson et al., 2016; Morris, Mrug, & Windle, 2015; Ruel, Lavoie, Hebert, & Blais, 2017; Ybarra & Thompson, 2017).

Many adolescents interact with romantic partners or prospective romantic partners through social media, texting, and other digital communications. A recent study found that 85% of teens in a romantic relationship expect to hear from their partner at least once a day, with nearly half (46%) expecting communication at least every few hours (Lenhart, Anderson, & Smith, 2015). Adolescents' widespread use of social media creates opportunities for harassment, surveillance, or control through technology. Common cyber abuse tactics include threats, bullying, revenge porn, reading personal messages, demanding immediate responses, sending unwanted sexually explicit images or videos, or pressuring others to do so (Lenhart et al., 2015; Kernsmith, Victor, & Smith-Darden, 2018; Reed, Tolman, & Ward, 2017; Stonard, Bowen, Walker, & Price, 2015; Temple et al., 2016). Among youth who perpetrate dating violence, 40.6% use computer-mediated communication as a tool of abuse—text messaging in particular (Korchmaros, Ybarra, Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Boyd, D., & Lenhart, 2013). In a study of middle and high school-aged youth, over one-quarter (26.3%) of those in dating relationships reported some form of cyber dating abuse victimization in the prior year. More than half (55.1%) of the sexual cyber abuse victims also reported sexual coercion (being forced to engage in unwanted sexual acts), at a rate seven times greater than those who had not experienced sexual cyber dating violence (Zweig, Dank, Yahner, & Lachman, 2013).

## Sexual Assault

VAWA, as amended by VAWA 2013, defines the term “sexual assault” as “any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent” (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013). Broadly, sexual assault may include rape, attempted sexual assault, and threats of sexual violence. Of the population of the United States, approximately one in three women and one in six men will experience some form of sexual violence (Smith et al., 2017). The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that, in the past decade, 28% of sexual victimizations were classified as completed rape, 21% as attempted rape, 27% as sexual assault, 17% as threats of rape or sexual assault, and 6% as unwanted sexual contact without force (Truman & Morgan, 2016).

The majority of sexual assaults are perpetrated by known assailants. The NCVS found that 34% of female victims of rape or sexual violence were assaulted by an intimate partner, 38% by a friend or acquaintance, and 22% by a stranger (Planty, Langton, Krebs, Berzofsky, & Smiley-McDonald, 2013). Results from the NISVS show that between 2010 and 2012, of all female victims who experienced rape—whether completed or attempted—nearly one-half (47.1%) were raped by a current or former intimate partner and 44.9% by an acquaintance (Smith et al., 2017). NISVS is a public health survey and the NCVS is a crime survey. Their methods and definitions differ accordingly, but both

*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is an ongoing telephone survey that collects information from people 18 and older about their experiences of sexual violence, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. The NISVS makes national and state-level data available simultaneously and contributes to an understanding of the impact of violence and abuse on distinct populations. Whereas the NISVS takes a public health approach to measuring incidence and prevalence, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) represents a criminal justice perspective. Through household surveys, the NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes, including those reported and not reported to law enforcement, against people 12 and older.*

have found that in the majority of sexual assaults the offender is known to the victim.

While both women and men are victims of sexual violence, women experience lifetime prevalence of sexual violence by an intimate partner at substantially higher rates. In the United States, an estimated one in six women (16.4%) and one in 14 men (7.0%) have experienced contact sexual violence (meaning rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, and/or unwanted sexual contact) by an intimate partner during their lifetime. Approximately 19.1% of women (one in five) and 1.5% of men have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetime. Unwanted non-contact sexual experiences are also extremely prevalent. It is estimated that one in three women (32.1%) and one in eight men (13.2%) have experienced this form of sexual violence in their lifetime (Smith et al., 2017).

A substantial number of victims of sexual assault are first assaulted at an early age. As with other domestic/sexual violence crimes, children, youth, and college-aged young adults are particularly vulnerable populations. The NISVS found that the vast majority of male and female victims of sexual assault suffered their first victimization before age 25 (Smith et al., 2017). Furthermore, early sexual victimization may increase the risk of repeated victimization. This data also showed that women who were raped before the age of 18 were twice as likely to be raped as adults (Black et al., 2011).

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), young women between the ages of 18 and 24 suffer the highest rate of rape and sexual assault compared to women in other age groups (Sinozich & Langton, 2014). A National Institute of Justice (NIJ) review of campus sexual assault prevalence research from 2000 to 2015 showed that, while estimates vary and there are no national prevalence figures, a substantial number of college students are sexually assaulted (Fedina, Holmes, & Backes, 2016). In response to the high prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses, the BJS developed and validated the Campus Climate Survey Validation Study (CCSVS). Colleges nationwide can use the validated survey instrument and toolkit to gauge sexual assault prevalence on their campuses, assess students' perceptions of their school's response to sexual assault, and identify solutions. Findings from the pilot study, conducted on nine college campuses with over 23,000 respondents, showed that incoming first-year students were at particular risk of being sexually assaulted early in the school year; highlighting the need for prevention education before college ever begins (Krebs et al., 2016). The NIJ 15-year survey of prevalence research found that when researchers examined populations at a higher risk of sexual victimization on campuses, such as lesbian and bisexual women, women of color, women with histories of prior sexual violence, and students with disabilities, they consistently found higher rates of victimization (Fedina et al., 2016). Accordingly, a recent survey of over 70,000 undergraduate students found that transgender students were significantly more likely than cisgender students to experience sexual assault, with black transgender students at higher risk than white transgender students (Coulter et al., 2017).



Sexual assault and sexual violence are associated with considerable varied and serious physical, psychological, and emotional health consequences for victims, such as depression, PTSD, shame, and substance abuse (Hakimi, Bryant-Davis, Ullman, & Gobin, 2016; Jordan, Combs, & Smith, 2014; Kennedy & Prock, 2016; Kirkner, Relyea, & Ullman, 2018; Pegram & Abbey, 2016; Probst, Turchik, Zimak, & Huckins, 2011; Sigurvinsdottir & Ullman, 2016). Sexual assault may also result in physical injuries ranging from minor injuries and bruising to blunt force trauma, defensive injuries, and attempted strangulation; victims may also suffer internal and anogenital injuries (Feeney, Chiaramonte, Campbell, Greeson, & Fehler-Cabral, 2017; Linden, 2011). Students who are victims of sexual assault are more likely to report symptoms of depression and PTSD, and lower academic achievement than those who have not experienced sexual assault (Jordan et al., 2014; Banyard et al., 2017; Lindquist et al., 2013; Neilson et al., 2015). A recent study of college and household residing women found that both forcible rape and drug- and alcohol-facilitated rape were associated with suicidal ideation (Gilmore et al., 2017).

Despite the high prevalence rate and adverse health consequences of experiencing sexual assault, reporting rates remain low (Eisenberg, Lust, Mathiason, & Porta, 2017; Lonsway & Archambault, 2012; Spencer, Mallory, Toews, Stith, & Wood, 2017; Spohn, Bjornsen, & Wright, 2017). Research estimates that between five and 20% of rapes are ever reported to law enforcement (Lonsway & Archambault, 2012). Victims are more likely to disclose sexual assault to their friends or peers, rather than law enforcement (Kirkner, Lorenz, & Ullman, 2017; Paul et al., 2013). This is likely due to a combination of factors: a victim may experience shame, self-blame, fear of retaliation or re-traumatization, distrust in law enforcement, or may not identify the experience as a crime. Between 2005 and 2010, victims reported that police collected evidence in only 19% of the cases to which they responded. An arrest was only made at the scene or during a follow-up investigation 31% of the time (Lonsway & Archambault, 2012). Additionally, emerging research suggests that victim-blaming attitudes held by law enforcement significantly contribute to a lack of thoroughness in sexual assault investigations (Shaw, Campbell, & Cain, 2016).

In an online study about women's disclosure of sexual assault, almost one-quarter (23.9%) of respondents indicated that they had not previously disclosed an unwanted sexual experience to anyone. Those revealing unwanted sexual experiences for the first time were more likely to blame themselves for the assault (63.8% vs. 39.1%) (Carretta, Burgess, & DeMarco, 2015).

## Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is a form of sexual violence that involves the use of physical violence, threats, force, fraud, or other types of coercion to force victims to engage in commercial sex acts. Traffickers frequently target vulnerable individuals, and then use these forms of power and control to induce victims to perform such acts and stay involved in the sex industry (Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2017; Polaris Project, 2013, 2017). As with other forms of sexual violence, victims of sex trafficking are disproportionately female (Walby et al., 2016). Many victims are also victims of domestic/sexual violence, and frequently experience helplessness, shame, guilt, self-blame, and humiliation; they may display symptoms of PTSD, panic attacks, anxiety, and depression, and suffer from lack of adequate medical care, sleep or eating disorders, and drug or alcohol addiction (Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, 2016; Bruggeman, Runge, Lieberman, Kloer, & Keyes, 2008; Coppola & Cantwell, 2016; Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2017; Ottisova, Hemmings, Howard, Zimmerman, & Oram, 2016; Roe-Sepowitz, Hickie, Dahlstedt, & Gallagher, 2014; Roe-Sepowitz, Bracy, Hogan, & Brockie, 2017; Schwarz, Unruh, Cronin, Evans-Simpson, Britton, & Ramaswamy, 2016). Victims typically lack financial security and employment skills. Further, without the housing provided by traffickers, they may be homeless. Accordingly, leaving can be a long and complex process that requires extensive social support and significant personal determination (Gerassi, Edmond, Fabbre, Howard, & Nichols, 2017; Rand, 2015).

Overall, research on the prevalence of sex trafficking victimization and commercial sexual exploitation remains limited, and obtaining reliable estimates that provide information about victims' experiences has proven complicated (McGough, 2013). Victims are often invisible to society, as traffickers regularly confine, hide, and relocate them. Moreover, disclosure of their victimization may result in severe repercussions from traffickers, and/or criminalization by law enforcement. As such, many victims are not accounted for in criminal justice databases and statistics. Currently, prevalence estimates of sex trafficking come from the Uniform Crime Reporting System, and rely on law enforcement data. However, law enforcement measures are significantly lower than estimates from other sources (Farrell & Reichert, 2017). In 2016, for example, law enforcement recorded 1,007 incidents of sex trafficking, whereas the National Human Trafficking Hotline received reports of 5,591 unique cases of sex trafficking (National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2017; Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 2016). New procedures promise to dispel measurement discrepancies, but require utilizing and integrating data from multiple agencies beyond law enforcement; training medical, social services, and criminal justice personnel how to identify trafficking; and implementing agency-based incentives for reporting incidents (Farrell & Reichert, 2017; Durgana & Zador, 2017; Schwarz et al., 2016; Sinha, Tashakor, & Pinto, 2018).

## Stalking

VAWA, as amended by VAWA 2005, defines “stalking” as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress. Stalking may include repeated, unwanted, intrusive, and frightening communications from the perpetrator by phone, mail, email, or social media. Perpetrators may leave unwanted items, presents, or flowers; or follow or wait for their victim at locations such as home, school, work, or places of recreation. They may place victims under surveillance, either by themselves or by third parties. They may make direct or indirect threats to harm the victim, the victim’s children, relatives, friends, or pets; they may damage or threaten to damage personal property. Perpetrators may engage in cyberstalking, using the Internet to harass or intimidate the victim, obtain or share their personal information, post rumors about them, or track their activities and whereabouts (Navarro & Clevenger, 2017; Smith et al., 2017; Stalking Resource Center, 2012; Woodlock, 2016).

The fear a victim endures is an important factor in stalking situations. According to most state criminal code definitions of stalking, a victim must demonstrate fear as a result of the stalker’s actions, before it can be legally considered criminal. Research reveals that among those who experience stalking, women are more likely than men to be afraid and fearful for their safety (Gatewood Owens, 2015; Podana & Imriskova, 2016; Reyns & Englebrecht, 2012). Further, stalking is rarely a singular act (Catalano, 2012; McEwan, Daffern, MacKenzie, & Ogloff, 2017). Nearly half (46.1%) of stalking victims report at least one unwanted contact per week and 11.1% report that they have been stalked by the same person for five years or more (Baum, Catalano, Rand, & Rose, 2009).

Though stalking is underreported, nearly one in six (15.8%) women and one in 19 (5.3%) men in the United States have experienced stalking at some point in their lives (Smith et al., 2017). The majority (75.8%) of female victims of stalking report having received unwanted calls or messages; more than half (58.5%) report being approached at work, school, or home; and nearly half (44.2%) report being watched, followed, or spied on during their lifetimes. The general public may be most familiar with stalking by strangers, but only about one in seven (14.7%) women and one in six (16.6%) men are stalked by strangers. The majority of victims are stalked by individuals they know: six in 10 (61.5%) female victims and four in 10 male victims (42.8%) are stalked by a current or former intimate partner. Women are stalked by their intimate partners at rates far greater than men; approximately one in 11 (9.2%) women and one in 40 (2.5%) men are stalked by intimate partners during their lives (Black et al., 2011). Women who are divorced or separated experience the highest rates of stalking (Baum et al., 2009).

Age is a risk factor for stalking. People between the ages of 18 and 24 experience the highest levels of stalking (Brady, Nobles, & Bouffard, 2017; Catalano, 2012; ). More than half (54.1%) of female victims report that their first stalking experience occurred before age 25, and one-fifth (21.2%) of

female victims report being stalked before age 18 (Smith et al., 2018). Stalking is more common on college campuses than in the general population (Brady et al., 2017; McNamara & Marsil, 2012). A recent survey of college students found that approximately four in ten respondents had experienced some form of stalking victimization (Brady et al., 2017). However, victims often do not recognize stalking as a crime. Among college students who reported behavior that qualified as stalking, only one-quarter (24.7%) self-identified as stalking victims; their acknowledgment of the stalking was linked with more severe and injurious offenses by the offenders (McNamara & Marsil, 2012).

Being stalked, and experiencing fear and threats, is significantly correlated with the incidence and severity of PTSD symptoms and psychological distress experienced by female victims of stalking (Dardis, Amoroso, & Iverson, 2017; Diette, Goldsmith, Hamilton, Darity, & McFarland, 2014; Fleming, Newton, Fernandez-Botran, Miller, & Ellison Burns, 2012; Korkodeilou, 2017; Logan & Walker, 2009b). The psychological, emotional, and financial devastation to victims can last for months or even years after the stalking ceases (Blodgett & Lanigan, 2017; Logan & Walker, 2015; Miller, 2012). In addition to the trauma that stalking victims experience, they may also face significant financial hardship as they may have to move, cancel cell phone plans, change jobs, reduce employment, or purchase expensive security systems in attempts to remain safe. Of those stalking victims who had jobs, 13.1% reported they had missed work due to fear or concern for their safety; more than half lost five or more days of work during the previous 12 months; and approximately 130,000 victims were either asked to resign or were fired from their jobs because they were stalking victims (Baum et al., 2009).

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# The Effectiveness of VAWA Funding: An Overview

Domestic/sexual violence is a pressing criminal justice and public health concern that has extensive consequences for victims, offenders, families, communities, and our nation. Responsive programming that adapts to meet the changing needs of victims and their families is essential to cultivating safe and secure communities. Victim services, the criminal and civil justice systems response, and prevention programming continue to evolve as they are evaluated and informed by research and experience.

Using current research on strategies to respond to these crimes, serve victims, and hold offenders accountable, OVW invests in proven strategies and solutions to further the common goal of ending domestic/sexual violence. The following sections of this report outline critical components of the response to domestic/sexual violence, such as collaborative partnerships between agencies; core victim services; criminal and civil justice practices; culturally specific approaches to serving historically underserved victims; technical assistance and capacity building; and prevention programming. Each section includes peer-reviewed and government-funded research, best practices from the field, aggregate grantee data, and anecdotal reports from grantees that demonstrate the effectiveness of VAWA-funded activities.

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# Coordinated Community Response

Over the past four decades, as communities identified domestic and sexual violence as significant problems, victim advocacy organizations and criminal justice agencies began to work together to address violence, protect victims, and hold offenders accountable. This type of collaboration, known as a coordinated community response (CCR), frames all VAWA grantees' efforts to address domestic/sexual violence. Research shows that strategies to combat domestic/sexual violence are most effective when combined and integrated in this way (Beldin, Lauritsen, D'Souza, & Moyer, 2015; DePrince, Belknap, Labus, Buckingham, & Gover, 2012; Family Justice Center Alliance, 2013; Gagnon, Wright, Srinivas, & DePrince, 2018; Greeson, Campbell, Bybee, & Kennedy, 2016; Robinson & Payton, 2016; Rosen et al., 2018; Shepard & Pence, 1999).

CCRs foster communication, improve understanding of different roles among members, create changes in practice and policy, and provide opportunities to share critical information that may improve how cases are handled. Typically, representatives of participating organizations increase their knowledge and awareness of each other's roles and responsibilities in their community systems, make professional connections that enable meaningful and increased referrals and services for victims, and influence important decision-making within the legal system (Cole, 2016; Herbert & Bromfield, 2017; Nowell & Foster-Fishman, 2011). For example, in some states, family violence coordinating councils promote interagency interventions to address domestic violence. The formation and ongoing development of these collaborations may improve the rate at which emergency protection orders become final orders (Allen et al., 2013).

First formally developed in Duluth, MN, in the early 1980s, the CCR framework initially focused on reforms in the criminal legal system and improving how law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, probation personnel, and victim advocates respond to domestic/sexual violence. Criminal justice practitioners and victim advocates provided and received training on these changes in approach and established systems to evaluate adherence to the reforms within each sector. This was accomplished in part through the formalization of policies and practices regarding how different actors would respond to and work together to address and curtail these forms of violence.

Eventually, CCRs expanded to include cross-disciplinary collaborations to examine and revise policies, address system challenges and gaps in services, overcome obstacles to victim safety and offender accountability, and produce recommendations for change. CCRs have been broadened further by grantees to include representatives from schools, workplaces, churches, community groups, neighborhoods, and culturally specific populations. Including employers in the coordinated response, for example, may contribute to changing social attitudes about intimate partner violence through the implementation of workplace policies and procedures that support



## WA • Grantee Perspective

The collaborative nature of this award is one of the most significant areas of growth for us. We have deep longstanding relationships with our LGBTQ communities and partner agencies, and this award allows us to bring additional resources to those collaborations. This award is helping increase our capacity not only to support the complex needs of youth survivors of violence but to continue to deepen a coordinated community response to support LGBTQ youth survivors in particular. This increased capacity includes the creation of the Puget Sound Teen Dating Violence Coalition, which is now one year old. In that time, hundreds of people have attended coalition meetings representing over 40 organizations. During this reporting period we were very excited to see several organizations in our region expand their services to explicitly serve youth survivors. We see this increased capacity as a direct result of the NW Network's collaboration with our regional services providers to work with youth survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

**NW NETWORK OF BISEXUAL, TRANS, LESBIAN & GAY SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, WASHINGTON (CONSOLIDATED YOUTH PROGRAM)**



## NC • Grantee Perspective

Through the funding of a Program Coordinator and the creation of a Coordinated Community Response Team, the University's relationships with Mars Hill Police Department, the Domestic Violence Shelter, and the Sexual Assault Center have grown tremendously throughout the reporting period. In addition, many of the internal departments/offices are coming together for the first time to collaborate on a project. For instance, campus ministry (who are classified as confidential employees) is working together with campus security, along with the guidance of prevention experts and the Training and Technical Assistance Institute (TTI), to establish a campus-wide guide for best practice response to victims of sexual violence. Prior to the grant funding, these departments would have only contacted each other if there was a problem.

**MARS HILL UNIVERSITY, NORTH CAROLINA (CAMPUS PROGRAM)**



#### UT • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to formalize our relationships with law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, our local elder and adult protective services agencies and personnel, clergy, and other allied professionals. Through the trainings we have held, we have been able to work with our officers in a more relaxed environment. Having a multi-disciplinary training team has given us a chance to demonstrate what a difference it makes when people work together rather than trying to deal with all aspects of an elder abuse case alone. By spending time with each other and discussing cases in the abstract, it allows us to understand how to “divide the pie” on actual cases, knowing that the response to elder abuse cases should be as multi-layered as the crimes are. The only way these cases can be responded to comprehensively, and in a way that provides the appropriate support to victims, is by having trusting relationships between all responding parties and agencies.

**UTAH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY COALITION  
(ABUSE IN LATER LIFE PROGRAM)**



#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This grant allowed us to have two dedicated staff members to establish policies and procedures and create working collaborations with Little Traverse Bay Bands Behavioral Health and the Women's Resource Center of northern Michigan. Due to our efforts in workgroups we have helped create trauma-informed statutes for domestic and sexual violence and personal protection orders.

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS  
(TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**

victims and hold offenders accountable (Pennington-Zoellner, 2009; Wider Opportunities for Women, 2014). Furthermore, recognizing that an effective response must account for the unique needs of marginalized and culturally specific populations, some grantees have refocused their collaborative efforts on involving a more diverse range of community stakeholders in impactful ways.

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a broadly implemented example of a CCR. Research shows that SARTs can improve legal outcomes, the help-seeking experiences of victims, and relationships between multidisciplinary responders (Greeson et al., 2016; Greeson & Campbell, 2015). SARTs bring together professionals from the criminal legal, medical, mental health, and advocacy sectors to enhance cross-system coordination and strengthen each sector's ability to respond to sexual assault. Some SARTs engage an even broader range of professionals—first responders (i.e., law enforcement, advocates, and health care providers) as well as those providing and coordinating ongoing resources for sexual assault victims within the community (e.g., mental health, public health, substance abuse, and other social services)—to improve the community response (Lonsway, Archambault, & Littel, 2017). Through the use of a national protocol for adult and child sexual assault medical forensic examinations and other best practices, SARTs ensure victims' access to immediate care and services and facilitate evidence collection that can be used to support investigation and prosecution (Office on Violence Against Women, 2013, 2016).

Grantees focus on interagency coordination and collaboration, whether through formal partnerships or community networking, and report the frequency of victim referrals and victim or case-level consultations, and of systems-level interactions, such as task force, work group, or coordinating council meetings. Across the two-year reporting period, **1,801** VAWA-funded grantees engaged in CCR-related activities.

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# Criminal Justice Response

Domestic and sexual violence are serious crimes that have lasting impacts on victims' lives and take a significant toll on communities, affecting millions of people in the United States every year. These crimes can have fatal consequences: in 2015, women in the United States were 14 times more likely to be killed by intimate partners than by strangers (Violence Policy Center, 2017). In 2014, nearly three-quarters (72%) of murder-suicides were perpetrated by intimate partners (Langley, 2015).

Furthermore, the consequences of these crimes can extend beyond the primary victim and reach corollary victims, including family, law enforcement, and community members (Fowler, Dahlberg, Haileyesus, Gutierrez, & Bacon, 2017; Smith et al., 2014). Those who perpetrate domestic/sexual violence often have extensive criminal histories; they are charged with more assaults and violent offenses than people who do not perpetrate domestic violence and have high rates of recidivism for both domestic violence and non-domestic violence crimes (Drake, Harmon, & Miller, 2013; Katsiyannis, Whitford, Zhang, & Gage, 2017; Richards, Jennings, Tomsich, & Gover, 2013, 2014).

The criminal justice system is designed to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest, and prosecution, as well as through close judicial scrutiny and management of offender behavior. To ensure that the rights and protections of victims are paramount in the development of strategies to address these crimes, VAWA-funded agencies within the criminal justice system must collaborate through meaningful partnerships with nonprofit, sexual assault, and domestic violence organizations and coalitions.

## Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers are traditionally the gatekeepers of the criminal legal system. Without an appropriate law enforcement response, victims' safety remains in jeopardy and offenders escape accountability, almost invariably committing more violence. In the absence of thorough investigation, probable cause assessment, arrest, and charging, offenders are immune from prosecution and potential sanctions: arrest rates remain low, removal of firearms from perpetrators is inconsistent, and sexual assault kits go untested (Alderden & Ullman, 2012; Campbell et al., 2015; Campbell, Feeney, Fehler-Cabral, Shaw, & Horsford, 2017; Campbell & Fehler-Cabral, 2017; Lynch, Logan, & Jackson, 2018; Seave, 2006; Shaw et al., 2016; Valentine et al., 2016; Webster et al., 2010; Wintemute et al., 2015; Zeoli et al., 2016).

Sexual assault perpetrators are infrequently arrested, and these low rates persist despite corroborating evidence such as witnesses, physical evidence, weapon use, or evidence obtained through a medical forensic exam (Lonsway & Archambault, 2012; Spohn & Tellis, 2012). Victims' perceived "lack of credibility" may be used as a reason not to arrest perpetrators (Shaw et al.,

*In FY 2014, OVW developed the Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction Initiative (DVHRI), in partnership with the National Institute of Justice. DVHRI is a two-phase project designed to help communities reduce domestic violence homicides through the implementation and evaluation of prevention models. The models focus on identifying high-risk victims and offenders and targeting specific community-based resources accordingly.*

*Furthermore, in many communities, fatality review teams have been established to identify deaths caused by domestic violence and to examine any systemic interventions, in the hopes of improving the systemic response. For more information, visit: <http://ndvfri.org/>*

2016; Tasca, Rodriguez, Spohn, & Koss, 2013). Some officers may believe that intimate partner/non-stranger rape is “not real rape,” is the victim’s fault, and does not implicate public safety as does stranger rape; low arrest rates in sexual assault cases can be attributed to other factors, too, such as a lack of departmental leadership (O’Neal & Spohn, 2017; Spohn & Tellis, 2012). A recent study found that only one quarter (26.2%) of sexual IPV cases reported to police resulted in an arrest, while nearly 52% of physical IPV offenses in the same sample resulted in arrests (Durfee & Fetzer, 2014). In addition, arrest rates can decrease when domestic violence suspects flee from the scene of domestic abuse, as officers may not pursue fleeing offenders or seek arrest warrants for them, despite the likelihood that these assailants will inflict more serious violence and more frequently reoffend (Hirschel & Buzawa, 2013).

In jurisdictions where the discretion of law enforcement is subject to mandatory and preferred arrest laws and policies, arrest practices may compromise the interests of victims or may produce disproportionate arrest rates among marginalized populations, including people of color, and particularly African American men (Chesney-Lind, 2002; Ptacek, 1999; Sherman, 2016). Where departmental policy or law does not require officers to make a primary aggressor determination, victim input may not be fully considered in the investigation process, resulting in dual arrest of the parties, arrest only of the victim, or failure to arrest the perpetrator (Hirschel & Buzawa, 2009; Morris, 2009). Accordingly, arrests of both victims and perpetrators (i.e., “dual arrests”), as well as the arrest rate of victims solely, are higher in mandatory/preferred arrest jurisdictions (Hirschel & Deveau, 2017; Hirschel, McCormack, & Buzawa, 2017; Holland-Davis & Davis, 2014). The consequent adverse outcomes for arrested victims are significant; victims may be reluctant to seek police assistance if they believe that they might be arrested (Schwartz, 2012). Further, gender, race, and class neutrality in state and federal law and policy can mask interpersonal and structural inequalities that influence domestic/sexual violence, and the systemic responses to these crimes (Baker & Stein, 2016; Richie, 1996; Ritchie & Jones-Brown, 2017; Stacey, Martin, & Brick, 2016). Inattention to these inequalities contributes to the disparate rates, patterns, and impacts of victimization based on gender and sexual identity (Guadalupe-Diaz & Jasinski, 2016; Hamby, Finkelhor, & Turner, 2013; Langenderfer-Magruder, Whitfield, Walls, Kattari, & Ramos, 2016; Ritchie & Jones-Brown, 2017; Serpe & Nadal, 2017).

Law enforcement recovery of firearms from domestic/sexual violence perpetrators who are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition by state and federal laws remains infrequent in many jurisdictions (Lynch et al., 2018; Lynch & Logan, 2017; Seave, 2006; Wintemute et al., 2015; Zeoli, Frattaroli, Roskam, & Herrera, 2017). This failure can have deadly consequences. A recent study found that women in states with higher rates of gun ownership are at a higher risk of being killed by someone they know (Siegel & Rothman, 2016). The researchers found that gun ownership rates alone explain 40% of the variation in women’s homicide victimization rates, compared to only 1.5% of the variation in men’s victimization rates. Indeed, one of the strongest risk factors for intimate partner homicide is whether the perpetrator has direct access to a gun (Spencer & Stith, 2018).



#### OK • Grantee Perspective

Rural Program funding has allowed the District Attorney’s Office in District 19 to hire an investigator specialized in investigating domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse crimes. Before the position was created, prosecutors were required to ask for follow-up investigations from the officer who had not completed the investigation. Many times this follow-up investigation never occurred. District 19 prosecutors now have an “in-house” investigator with specialized training to provide follow-up investigation on domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse cases.

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL (RURAL PROGRAM)

Many perpetrators are able to acquire or retain guns, as prohibitions against possession or ownership are not always contained in criminal information databases (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2015). Thus, firearms dealers rely on databases that do not contain all relevant prohibitors, and law enforcement—seeking to enforce criminal and civil protection orders, and/or mental health commitment laws—may not be able to identify prohibited persons. Furthermore, while the number of protection orders in the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) database, maintained by the FBI, has been level since 2010, the number of orders in state “prohibited persons” repositories has risen during that time, meaning that firearm prohibitor information is only available at the state level in many cases (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2015; Goggins, 2016a, 2016b). Fortunately, the 2008 National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Amendments Act dramatically improved states’ capacities to automate records and submit data to federal databases. Even so, barriers to preventing domestic violence offenders from purchasing firearms remain. According to a July 2016 report from the Government Accountability Office, just under 7,000 domestic violence offenders were able to buy firearms between 2006 and 2015, due to a “default proceed” that allows gun dealers to proceed with sales if the FBI does not complete a background check within three business days (Goodwin, Erdman, & Curry, 2016).

Sexual assault kit (SAK) evidence, including DNA, can provide significant leads in sexual assault investigations. It can help identify the assailant in cases of sexual assault committed by a stranger, and it can link a crime—regardless of whether the offender is known—with other crimes committed by the same offender. SAK testing and analysis produces critical evidence that demonstrates physical contact between victims and suspects, corroborates victims’ allegations, and identifies or eliminates possible suspects (Campbell et al., 2015; Campbell, Feeney, et al., 2017; Menaker, Campbell, & Wells, 2017; Wells, Campbell, & Franklin, 2016). Without evidence in addition to a victim’s account of what happened, police may elect not to forward cases to prosecutors, who may decline more sexual assault cases than they accept (Campbell et al., 2014; Morabito, Pattavina, & Williams, 2016; Spohn & Holleran, 2001). However, unknown numbers of untested SAKs remain in police property lockers across the country (Campbell, Feeney, Pierce, Sharma, & Fehler-Cabral, 2016; Campbell, Fehler-Cabral, Bybee, & Shaw, 2017; Pinchevsky, 2016; Valentine et al., 2016).

Many law enforcement agencies have adopted significant policy, procedural, and practical changes that have enhanced the justice process, contributing to reduced recidivism and increased victim safety and satisfaction. These changes include implementing collaborative relationships with service providers and other stakeholders to facilitate a coordinated community response to domestic/sexual violence (Ward-Lasher, Messing, & Hart, 2017; White & Sienkiewicz, 2018). As of 2013, about one-half of local police departments and one-third of sheriff’s offices serving 250,000 or more residents operated a full-time victim assistance unit (Reaves, 2017).

*In 2018 the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) led a joint effort between the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to identify best practices for the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence. This effort culminated in a report to Congress that summarizes themes from listening sessions OVW held with leaders in law enforcement, prosecution, healthcare, forensic science, and other fields, as well as with survivors. The report also describes initiatives underway within and beyond the Department of Justice to support communities in caring for victims and properly handling evidence. For more information, visit: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1100476/download>*

*The 35 recommendations set forth in the Department of Justice’s 2016 report, National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits, promote, among other things: a trauma-informed response to sexual assault, victim access to medical forensic care and other services regardless of whether the victim reports the assault to law enforcement, use of evidence tracking systems, timely (i.e., within seven business days) submission of SAKs to a laboratory, the use of appropriate methods and efficiencies for processing SAKs, law enforcement accountability for investigations and evidence storage, submission, and retention; appropriate victim notification, retention of biological evidence from uncharged or unsolved reported cases for 50 years or the length of the statute of limitations (whichever is greater), and the retention of SAKs with associated unreported sexual assaults for the length of the statute of limitations or a maximum of 20 years.*

*In some jurisdictions, “high-risk response teams,” often composed of law enforcement, victim advocates, court personnel, human service providers, and attorneys representing victims, deliberate with victims exposed to high risk of recurring, severe violence about possible heightened deterrence strategies to avert repeat violence. Team representatives may make home visits, accompany victims to legal proceedings, advocate for enhanced protective services, or support victims attempting to access critical counseling or economic resources. For more information, visit: <http://www.dvhrt.org/>*



### SD • Grantee Perspective

Being a designated domestic violence detective allows me to focus my efforts on a specific type of victim or crime. When repeat offender cases come across my desk, I am able to recognize them and focus my efforts. Victims remember my name and become familiar with speaking with me, increasing their chances of cooperation on prosecution. In one particular case, I assisted a victim in 2016 with her ex stalking her. She came to me again in 2017 as the behavior had returned. I created a new case and discovered a large quantity of stalking, misuse of phone, threatening messages, and stalking via the internet. I have written three different affidavits for his arrest and the behavior has continued. He has approximately 25 charges pending in State Court. I involved the ATF, who recovered weapons in his house and, as a felon, he was federally indicted. I am working with the FBI to prosecute the internet-based stalking. Because of my long-term relationship with this victim, she felt safe coming to me again for assistance.

**SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
(ICJR PROGRAM)**



### VA • Grantee Perspective

During the final three months of the grant we held two two-day, on-site trainings. One was in rural Montana where there are few resources, and one was for the Philadelphia police department, where there is new leadership working to strengthen the special victims unit and their collaboration with their prosecutors. Through the facilitation of twenty-four trainings over the life of the grant, the goals and objectives were met and law enforcement, together with their community partners, were given information and tools to strengthen their response to victims of sexual assault. We were told time and again, sometimes by officers/investigators who had been on the job for thirty years, that they wished that they had known this or received this training at the start of their careers.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE,  
VIRGINIA (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

Swift responses to reported abuse and thorough investigations, supported with training and resources, can increase the rates at which cases are referred to prosecutors, accepted for prosecution, and result in convictions (Morrow, Katz, & Choate, 2016; Rosay, Wood, Rivera, Postle, & TePas, 2010). Likewise, law enforcement officers who are trained in and adhere to best practices are more likely to arrest perpetrators (Hamby, Finkelhor, & Turner, 2015). These practices include: conducting investigations in-person, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to violence, providing victims with emergency cell phones, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe.

Recognizing that not all domestic violence is the same, that the risks posed by perpetrator coercive controls and violence vary, that threat management must be individually tailored to constrain each perpetrator, and that uniform response to victims will not effectively support their safety strategies, several evidence-based approaches to assessing lethality risk in domestic violence cases are being implemented in jurisdictions across the country.

For example, the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is an evidence-based intervention now used by law enforcement in 37 states when responding to victims of domestic violence (Campbell, Messing, & Williams, 2017; Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 2018). Responding officers employing the LAP engage domestic violence victims in assessing the levels of risk posed by their intimate partners, and facilitate their access to victim services. Should this assessment tool identify high-risk for repeat, severe, or near-lethal domestic abuse, responding officers, with the permission of victims, place a call to the local domestic violence service program to connect victims with hotline advocates, who can then discuss safety planning, legal and emergency housing options, and crisis services. When first responders use the LAP process, the frequency and severity of violence decrease, and victims may adopt protective strategies and seek help more often (Dutton, Tamborra, & Pittman, 2017; Messing, Campbell, Sullivan Wilson, Brown, & Patchell, 2015; Messing, Campbell, Ward-Lasher, Brown, Patchell, & Sullivan Wilson, 2016; Messing, Campbell, Wilson, Brown, Patchell, & Shall, 2014). This intervention is also designed to educate victims about risk factors for danger, to improve their decision-making about self-care, and to encourage them to pursue shelter and advocacy services. In other interventions, such as the Domestic Violence Home Visit Intervention (DVHVI), law enforcement and victim advocates forge relationships to provide “second responder outreach” to foster victim engagement in the legal system, offer individualized assistance based on victim needs, enhance victim safety, reduce recidivism, and increase reporting of recurring violence (Smith Stover, 2012).

VAWA funds efforts to improve and expand the criminal justice system’s response to victims of domestic/sexual violence. In particular, ICJR, Rural, and Tribal Governments Program grantees are awarded funds for law enforcement activities and staff. Other programs that are awarded funds for training can train law enforcement officers, and engage law enforcement in CCR efforts.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **102** ICJR, Rural, and Tribal Governments Program grantees used funds for law enforcement activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **45** full-time equivalent (FTE) law enforcement officers;
- Overall, VAWA-funded grantees trained at least **91,074** law enforcement officers;
- Overall, VAWA-funded grantees trained **12,923** Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SANEs/SAFEs);
- A semi-annual average of **45** ICJR and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and train specialized law enforcement units;
- Law enforcement officers in ICJR Program-funded agencies responded to **150,533** calls for assistance, made more than **48,413** arrests, investigated **119,198** cases, and referred **50,567** cases to prosecutors;
- Overall, a semi-annual average of **869** VAWA-funded grantees engaged in CCR related meetings with local, state, and/or federal law enforcement agency staff; and
- A semi-annual average of **143** Rural, Tribal Governments, and T-SASP Program grantees engaged in these meetings with tribal law enforcement.

## Prosecution

Since the enactment of VAWA, significant innovations in the prosecution of domestic/sexual violence have been implemented, such as the development of comprehensive investigation policies and procedures; the establishment and expansion of specialized units; technology upgrades; increased numbers of dedicated prosecutors, investigators, and victim advocates; and the availability of training and technical assistance. As demonstrated by grantees, these innovations have resulted in improved victim outreach, enhanced charges for repeat abusers, increased prosecution and conviction rates, upgraded sanctions of convicted abusers, and protections and restitution for victims. In addition, with the recognition of sex trafficking as commercial sexual exploitation, legislators, policymakers, and criminal justice system leadership have explored alternatives to criminalization and incarceration for many of those arrested for prostitution, instead identifying them as victims of sex trafficking (Clayton, Krugman, & Simon, 2013; U.S. Department of Justice, 2017b). However, additional systemic improvements are necessary, as the prosecutorial response to domestic/sexual violence is inconsistent within and across jurisdictions. For example, while laws have been enacted in all states regarding strangulation, it is not prosecuted consistently (Pritchard et al., 2015; Reckdenwald, Nordham, Pritchard, & Francis, 2017; Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention and California District Attorneys Association, 2013).

Victim resistance to participation in prosecution is often cited as the most compelling reason to decline prosecution in cases involving domestic/sexual violence (Alderden & Long, 2016; Alderden & Ullman, 2012). In many cases, a

*The Sexual Assault Justice Initiative (SAJI) is a special project launched by OVW in 2015 to improve the justice system's response to sexual violence, with a focus on prosecution. The initiative involves the development and implementation of performance measures that look beyond conviction rates and reflect best practices for prosecuting sexual assault.*

*Through this initiative, AEquitas: The Prosecutor's Resource on Violence Against Women, works closely with OVW and experts in the field to test performance measures—contained in the Response to Sexual Violence for Prosecutors (RSVP) Model (<http://www.aequitasresource.org/Model-Response-to-Sexual-Violence-for-Prosecutors-RSVP-An-Invitation-to-Lead.pdf>)—and assist prosecutors in seven jurisdictions to adopt the model.*



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Funding has allowed Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. (ENIPC) to hire a part-time contract prosecutor to prosecute offenders within the Eight Northern Pueblos. The tribes are unable to provide their own prosecutors due to the cost of having a single prosecutor in each tribe. Providing prosecution services to the eight northern pueblos enhances offender accountability and victim safety.

**EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL, INC.**  
(TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)



### OK • Grantee Perspective

Prior to the funding for the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), high risk and high lethality cases were not sufficiently monitored or investigated, and were not prosecuted as succinctly as they have been since the development and overall implementation of the RIT model. Funding a prosecutor who handles exclusively these types of cases has allowed the DA to focus on not only the legal aspects of evidence-based prosecution, but also on how to present it to the jury in a way they will understand and process. Partners are able to provide up-to-date, victim-witness information with victim consent, and updates on harassment or intimidation by defendants. This decreases the amount of time between investigation and submission of cases to and subsequent filing of charges by the DA. The PO Attorney prosecuted 47 new high-risk client cases with multiple forms of abuse and violence which would not have been able to receive direct attention in an expedited manner without this funded position (12 pending and 35 closures). Direct and immediate case management and staffing by members of the team result in expedited charges, higher bonds in some cases, more effective evidence collection and analysis, and, most importantly, confidence and trust among diverse agencies serving the needs of the victim and of the justice system. No RIT case client was murdered in 2014, 2015, or 2016 and to date as a result of the more effective case review and expedited services offered.

**CITY OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA (ICJR PROGRAM)**

victim's reluctance to participate may be due to the knowledge that s/he will lose financial security if her/his abuser is prosecuted (Carey & Solomon, 2014; O'Neal, 2017). Victim intimidation or tampering with victim-witnesses are often significant reasons for victim reluctance to cooperate in prosecution, and prosecutors may not routinely screen for either of these factors (Buel, 2014). In addition, prosecutors often decline domestic/sexual violence cases based on factors other than evidence of the crimes alleged, such as a victim's possible prior criminal record or substance use, and whether the victim invited the suspect to her/his residence (Kaiser, O'Neal, & Spohn, 2017; O'Neal, Tellis, & Spohn, 2015). These non-evidentiary factors consistently emerge as significant determinants of whether a case is prosecuted, whether a victim is deemed credible and/or agrees to cooperate, and whether a defendant is found guilty; likewise, they influence the severity of the sentence imposed. However, sexual assault cases may be more likely to be investigated and prosecuted, and reach the final stages of prosecution (i.e., conviction at trial and/or guilty plea bargains), after the implementation of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program (Campbell, Patterson, & Bybee, 2012; Schmitt, Cross, & Alderden, 2017).

Early intervention and victim outreach immediately after defendants are arraigned may lead to an increase in victim participation in prosecution, and an increase in conviction rates (DePrince et al., 2012; Greeson et al., 2016; Nichols, 2014; Peterson, 2013). Prosecutors should engage victims in the justice process by actively seeking their input and inclusion, prioritizing their safety and well-being, and communicating an understanding of the impact of these crimes. Domestic violence victims whose cases are prosecuted in a way that aligns with these principles may be less likely to report both psychological and physical violence after case disposition (Finn, 2013). Preliminary evidence shows that the use of videotaping, including via body-worn cameras, may improve evidence and increase conviction rates related to domestic/sexual violence (Morrow et al., 2016; Peterson, 2012).

VAWA grant programs promote development and improvement of effective prosecution strategies to address domestic/sexual violence. In particular, ICJR, Rural, and Tribal Governments Program grantees are awarded funds for prosecution activities and staff. ICJR and Rural Program grantees can use funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized prosecution units; other programs that are awarded funds for training can train prosecutors.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **62** ICJR, Rural, and Tribal Governments Programs grantees funded prosecution activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **37** full-time equivalent (FTE) prosecutors;
- Overall, VAWA-funded grantees trained at least **15,936** prosecutors;
- **35** ICJR and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and/or

train specialized prosecution units; and

- Data reported by ICJR Program-funded prosecution offices showed a conviction rate<sup>ii</sup> of **71%** for sexual assault cases.

A total of **126,337** domestic/sexual violence cases were referred to ICJR Program-funded prosecution offices; **73%** of the cases were accepted for prosecution. A total of **90,734** cases were disposed of by ICJR Program-funded prosecutors, with **44,713** of those cases resulting in convictions.<sup>iii</sup>

## Courts

From pre-trial to post-conviction, VAWA has supported court systems reforms that increase victims' access to justice, improve offender accountability, and reduce recidivism (Lippman, 2012; Richmond & Richmond, 2015; Pinchevsky, 2017). Judges are leaders in configuring new, specialized court structures and processes, such as criminal domestic violence courts, civil protection order dockets, integrated domestic violence courts, teen or youth courts, sex offender courts, tribal domestic violence dockets, and sex trafficking courts (Angiolillo, 2016; Leventhal, Angiolillo, & D'Emic, 2014; Martinson & Jackson, 2017). These specialized courts use best practices, such as risk assessment, judicial monitoring, case management/coordination, victim advocacy, expedited hearings, opportunities for victim participation, staff training, and partnerships with key stakeholders (Angiolillo, 2016; Birnbaum, Saini, & Bala, 2016; Buzawa & Buzawa, 2017; Hood & Ray, 2017).

A key component of informed judicial decision-making is risk assessment, or the process of appraising an offender's likelihood of recidivism. Judges and judicial officers must evaluate an offender's risk to victims when setting bail and pre-trial release conditions, and determining sentencing, probation, and monitoring terms. Risk assessment tools and processes, administered by professionals who have been trained to use them appropriately, can be used in civil, criminal, and family law cases to identify red flags for stalking and for severe and potentially fatal domestic/sexual violence (Campbell & Glass, 2018; Campbell & Messing, 2017; Campbell, Webster, & Glass, 2009; Logan & Walker, 2015; Melton et al., 2017). By performing these assessments, judges can impose sanctions that deter recidivism. Domestic violence offenders who are sentenced appropriately, given the severity of the crimes, are less likely to commit new domestic violence crimes (Klein, Centerbar, Keller, & Klein, 2013). In addition, emerging innovations in technology, such as automated forecasting models, may augment effective judicial decision-making by accurately predicting the likelihood that offenders will re-offend, potentially improving release decisions (Berk, Sorenson, & Barnes, 2016).

Judicial monitoring, a system of mandated court appearances before judicial



### IA • Grantee Perspective

OWW ICJR Program funding has permitted the Iowa Accountability Program to explore and implement innovative programming, curricula, risk assessments, and community engagement mechanisms to inform the Court's response to domestic violence, thus increasing both victim safety and offender accountability. For example, funding has allowed the Iowa Accountability Program to conduct court observations of domestic violence hearings to think critically about what the Courts do well and what could be improved. During this reporting period, we observed 102 civil court hearings, 14 criminal court hearings, and two criminal trials related to domestic violence. From these observations, we have learned that, due to space limitations at courthouses, victims and batterers sit at the same table in approximately 61% of civil hearings where both parties attended, presenting a safety concern for victims. Knowing this, we are now able to work with Court staff to see what, if anything, can be done to address this issue and further enhance victim safety overall.

**IOWA STATE JUDICIAL BRANCH (ICJR PROGRAM)**



### ME • Grantee Perspective

Grant funding enables specialized, intensive pre- and post-trial case management and supervision of DV offenders. The DV pretrial case manager conducts home visits to monitor compliance with conditions of release and execute a higher level of supervision than would be possible without the dedicated funding. He works extensively to implement an electronic monitoring option to enhance victim safety. Grant funds (covering overtime cost) allow the DV Probation Officer and the DV pretrial case manager to attend the monthly High Risk Response Team meetings, and the Judicial Monitoring sessions. These foster stronger relationships and better communication with project partners.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE (ICJR PROGRAM)**

<sup>ii</sup> Convictions include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 16% of sexual assault conviction outcomes.

<sup>iii</sup> Convictions include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 11% of all conviction outcomes.



### IA • Grantee Perspective

Our Domestic Violence Court judges are dedicated to providing fair and equal treatment to all offenders. With the one family-one judge model, the judge becomes familiar with each case, rather than the case being passed around and misunderstood by others. From the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office's involvement providing deputies every Monday to sit in the courtroom and guarantee victim safety, to the victim advocates' presence in the courtroom to ensure the victims are supported and feel comfortable, we are able to show victims they are not alone and we have their best interest in mind. With victim advocates available at the courthouse to meet with victims and explain court procedure, our DV Court and its partners can offer assistance to victims in eliminating some confusion during this very difficult time. The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) provides pre-trial services to offenders, so they too can receive assistance after an assault has been reported. They meet with offenders and monitor their behavior/actions before the case goes to trial, thus, providing the DV Court judge with information to ensure the judge has what is needed to make informed decisions before making their ruling. Additionally, DCS offers assistance if the offender is seeking substance abuse treatment, housing opportunities, transportation, etc.

#### IOWA STATE JUDICIAL BRANCH (ICJR PROGRAM)



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Justice for Families program funding allows us to build upon our success as one of the few LGBTQ-specific legal service providers in the nation and to create what we hope will be a service provision model. Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (DVLAP) is also able to implement the first-of-its-kind LGBTQ-specific court-based and court-related training program in Los Angeles County. With JFF funding, DVLAP has been able to bring together the foremost experts on LGBTQ domestic violence in Los Angeles County to create a versatile, flexible, trauma-informed, intersectional, and engaging curriculum. JFF funding allows us to provide holistic and comprehensive legal services by supporting systemic improvement so that the institutions that are set in place to protect LGBTQ survivors do so with respect and cultural sensitivity.

#### LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER, CALIFORNIA (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)

officers to determine offender compliance with sentencing provisions and to impose swift sanctions for noncompliance, may facilitate offender adherence to court orders and sentencing provisions (Labriola, Cissner, Davis, & Rempel, 2012). Judicial monitoring sessions are opportunities to reiterate and clarify information about requirements, restrictions, and consequences for violations. Likewise, offenders assigned to judicial monitoring may be more likely to understand their obligations and to recognize that noncompliance will result in serious consequences.

Courts have invested in integrated electronic data systems that enhance case management, improve offender accountability, and automate victim notification. Integrated electronic court records can improve the delivery of court information and orders to federal databases, and automate victim notification systems. The VAWA-created federal full faith and credit provision, along with federal firearms prohibitions, encouraged many courts to produce digital orders and files that can be uploaded to the FBI's (National Crime Information Center's) Protection Order File (NCIC-POF), the Interstate Identification Index (III), and the (NICS) files, thereby improving information exchange (Gun Ban for Individuals Convicted of a Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence, 2015; Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013). In addition, automated victim notification (AVN) systems in nearly all states can be used to apprise victims and providers of offender court events and status changes. These systems can enhance victim safety, improve access to offender information and tracking, increase victims' sense of empowerment, and elicit greater involvement in their legal cases. Research shows that the majority of service providers use AVN systems. Fewer victims are aware that they too can use these systems, although those that do use them report being satisfied (Irazola, Williamson, Niedzwiecki, Debus-Sherrill, & Sun, 2015).

Specialized courts are designed to promote victim involvement and empowerment, so that victims are part of the justice process and can explain their unique safety concerns. In these courts, trained advocates provide support to victims, and judges are informed on the dynamics of domestic/sexual violence and appropriate treatment of victims (Anderson, 2015). One type of specialized court, integrated domestic violence (IDV) court, uses a "one judge, one family" approach, scheduling criminal, civil, protection order, and other family-related cases and matters to be heard by the same judge, and whenever possible, on the same day. Advocates can privately share information with victims about court processes, publicly facilitate the presentation of victim impact statements and sentencing requests, and support victims throughout the proceedings. Procedural fairness and justice are important to victims and defendants alike, and may be as important as case outcomes in terms of how victims perceive the court's response (Bell, Perez, Goodman, & Dutton, 2011; Hauser, 2017).

While research is mixed, some findings show that these specialized courts produce greater case efficiency, judicial contact, victim support services and satisfaction, stakeholder collaboration, and more convictions than traditional



criminal courts (Cissner, Labriola, & Rempel, 2015; Hovda, 2012; Peterson, 2014; Picard-Fritsche, Cissner, & Puffett, 2011; Schlueter, Wicklund, Adler, Owen, & Halvorsen, 2011). The judicial supervision and noncompliance sanctions in specialized IDV courts may lead to lower re-arrest rates among some offenders; however, others may be more likely to be re-arrested for criminal contempt charges, such as violations of protection orders (Labriola et al., 2012). In either case, the close surveillance of IDV offenders and engagement of victim witnesses in the prosecution may explain the higher reported rates of pre-disposition recidivism, since new offenses might be more apparent to the specialized court (Cissner, Picard-Fritsche, & Puffett, 2011; Katz & Rempel, 2011; Peterson, 2014; Picard-Fritsche et al., 2011). In one study of nine New York State courts, defendants processed in IDV courts were nearly twice as likely as those in criminal courts to be re-arrested exclusively on criminal contempt charges, indicating their sole offenses were violations of protection orders (Katz & Rempel, 2011). These findings imply that IDV courts may be particularly effective in monitoring prohibited contact with victims.

In 2000, Congress enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) (Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000). States subsequently passed laws criminalizing labor and sex trafficking. In the ensuing years, prosecutors of sex traffickers have been hindered by barriers such as the invariable jurisdictional and case complexity, and sex trafficking victims' serious fear and reluctance to participate in prosecution (Farrell et al., 2012; Huff-Corzine, Sacra, Corzine, & Rados, 2017; Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2017). However, specialized court personnel have been building expertise in working with victims of sex trafficking and responding in ways that treat trafficked persons as victims instead of offenders, and acknowledge the unique risks that victims involved in prosecution may face (Byrne, 2017; Crank, 2014). Emerging research indicates that law enforcement participation in a coordinated multidisciplinary task force increases the odds of trafficking arrests (Huff-Corzine et al., 2017).

The VAWA-funded Courts Program supported the development and enhancement of model courts and training for court-related personnel when responding to domestic/sexual violence. VAWA 2013 consolidated the purpose areas of the Courts Program, along with the Supervised Visitation Program, into the new Justice for Families Program, under which the first set of awards was made in FY 2014. Justice for Families Program grantees can also provide legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence, thereby addressing a persistent need identified by former Courts and Supervised Visitation Program grantees, as well as other programs.



#### ND • Grantee Perspective

Without JFF funding, the Kids First program would find it challenging to hold formal collaborative meetings, such as the JFF Executive Committee, in which district court, the city, CCR, and Kids First address court issues, victim safety, and other topics of concern. These meetings have played a key role in our efforts to continue and enhance the collaboration among our agencies. Successes range from small enhancements, such as the court now ensuring that Kids First receives copies of court orders, to major developments, such as the beginning conversations about starting a specialized Domestic Violence Court in our community. Without JFF funding, our program would not have the resources available to allot time for community collaborations and the nurturing of valuable relationships that strengthen services for victims and their children throughout our community.

**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER,  
NORTH DAKOTA (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**



### WA • Grantee Perspective

We've increased staffing which has enabled us to expand our court monitoring, outreach, and system coordination. During the reporting period, we added an additional CourtWatch shift, allowing us to track more data and information from court. The CourtWatch Services Coordinator has also been involved in establishing a multi-year plan to update Washington's Sexual Offense Bench Guide, and will be the coordinator for any law student authors who participate in the project. We are also in the process of rolling out a new monitoring form to track the language used in sexual assault cases, and have been coding the language used in Probable Cause Certifications to identify areas where additional outreach/education is needed. This funding has also allowed us to delve deeper into issues raised in our most recent offender chronology to convene a group of stakeholders (DSHS, prosecution, law enforcement, victim services) to discuss information-sharing practices designed to keep children safe from sexual abuse. We also now have the bandwidth to do more outreach to the courts, including the creation and distribution of resources to assist them in sexual assault cases.

**KING COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER,  
WASHINGTON (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**

Five VAWA-funded grant programs—ICJR, Courts, Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Governments—used funds for court activities. Other programs can engage court personnel in coordinated community response efforts.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **39** ICJR, Courts, Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Governments Programs grantees engaged in grant-funded court activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **18** full-time equivalent (FTE) court personnel, such as judges, clerks, and docket managers;
- These grantees trained at least **18,909** court personnel, and used funds to support a semi-annual average of **28** specialized courts;
- ICJR Program-funded courts disposed of **3,139** sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, and/or related cases, more than half of which (**73%**) were domestic/dating violence misdemeanors; **38%** of all charges disposed of resulted in convictions;<sup>iv</sup>
- ICJR Program-funded court programs engaged in judicial monitoring of a semi-annual average of **960** offenders and conducted **9,462** individual review hearings;
- Overall, a semi-annual average of **562** VAWA-funded grantees engaged in CCR-related meetings with local, state, and federal courts; and
- A semi-annual average of **137** Rural, Tribal Governments, and T-SASP Program grantees engaged in these meetings with tribal courts.

Domestic violence criminal courts for youth offenders recognize the developmental needs of juveniles. These courts can offer resources and programs that address the unique assistance and monitoring required by teen abusers, and connect teen victims with specialized services (Center for Court Innovation, 2014). Teen protection order courts pay special attention to the unique safety requirements of teen victims, such as the overlap of offender and victim social networks and enrollment in the same schools and community programs (Break the Cycle, 2010; Klein, Salomon, et al., 2013). Many states allow for victims under 18 to initiate orders of protection, although laws vary and some states require an adult to file on the juvenile's behalf (Break the Cycle, 2010). Court procedures, rules, and resources for judges and judicial system professionals that enhance teen victim safety and well-being are in varying stages of development (National Judicial Education Program, 2016).

Sex offender and sex trafficking courts are emerging specialized courts; their design, infrastructure, staffing, and processes are exploratory. While few jurisdictions have established specialized sex offense courts or dockets, there is increasing recognition that sex offense management is flawed within traditional criminal courts, and may be better handled in a specialized manner, outside of typical diversion or treatment courts (Hauser, 2017; Thomforde-Hauser & Grant, 2010). Emerging research shows these specialized courts

<sup>iv</sup> Convictions include cases of deferred adjudication, which represents 48% of all conviction outcomes.

should include early case identification; expedited calendaring; appropriate, graduated sanctions; enhanced offender supervision; sex offender treatment and judicial compliance reviews; specialized stakeholder training on clear and consistent responses to noncompliance; community education; and ongoing process evaluation (Grant, 2010; Hauser, 2017).

## Probation

In response to heightened scrutiny and more nuanced sentencing by courts in cases of domestic/sexual violence, probation and parole departments have adopted specialized practices for intensive supervision of offenders, domestic violence or otherwise, and specialized staff who provide outreach and support to victims to help repair and prevent further harm (American Probation and Parole Association, 2013; Kratcoski, 2017). Grantees have developed emerging, evidence-based models for probation supervision of domestic/sexual violence offenders that frame probation services as one portion of a larger coordinated community response (Crowe et al., 2009; Sadusky, Regan, & Reed, 2015). These models, now being implemented across the country, take an integrated systemic approach that incorporates fundamental principles and guidelines for all participating stakeholders, including criminal justice agencies, advocacy organizations, and victim services providers, to use when intervening and working with victims (New Orleans District Probation and Parole, 2014; White & Sienkiewicz, 2018). They provide consistent accountability mechanisms and treatment for perpetrators, while ensuring victim safety. Emerging research shows that these models are particularly effective in reducing recidivism among youth sex offenders (Lovins, Yoder, & Berry, 2017; Yoder, Dillard, Lovins, & Berry, 2017). However, further research on the effectiveness of different offender management models is needed.

Examples of strategies in sex offender management can include the containment approach, where trained supervisory personnel collaborate to provide specialized treatment, supervision, and polygraph assessment for offenders; the Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) model, in which volunteers provide community supervision after legal supervision is completed; and the use of electronic monitoring using GPS technology (Lobanov-Rostovsky, 2015; SMART, 2016). Emerging research shows that GPS programs can produce significantly better outcomes than traditional parole programming (Gies et al., 2012). Compliance with parole conditions was higher when offenders were tracked with GPS monitors, while rates of recidivism and re-incarceration were higher among those subjected to traditional parole supervision. Specialized supervision in conjunction with rehabilitation, such as group or individual therapy focused on relapse prevention, appears to be effective in reducing recidivism for sex offenders; however, the use of specialized supervision without rehabilitation does not (Fox, 2017; Lobanov-Rostovsky, 2015).

There are many instances when responding to domestic/sexual violence crimes is not straightforward for probation and parole systems. For example, supervision in Indian Country must be developed according to a tribe's goals,



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments Program funding has allowed Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. (ENIPC) PeaceKeepers to promote victim safety and hold offenders accountable. Through our Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP), offenders focus on healthy relationships. The BIP program provides opportunities for offenders to be in a program that integrates power and control philosophy with a social learning theory. Tribal Governments Program funding has also allowed ENIPC, Inc. PeaceKeepers to promote victim safety and hold offenders accountable by providing probation services that monitor offender compliance to ensure a victim's safety. When an offender is in violation of probation or non-compliance, the courts are immediately notified and a non-compliance hearing is set for the offender. Also, when an offender is released from incarceration, the probation officer can quickly notify the victim so that the victim is aware and can modify safety plans. Tribal Governments Program funding has allowed ENIPC, Inc. PeaceKeepers staff to keep current with training, which enhances their knowledge and is in turn passed on to clients and community members.

**EIGHT NORTHERN INDIANS PUEBLO COUNCIL, INC.  
(TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**



### VA • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program has assisted the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) in enhancing offender accountability through the grant-funded Civil Compliance Monitor, which provides the capacity to focus on offender accountability and victim support within the civil court process. Prior to the ICJR funding, victims sometimes faced going to criminal court without the prosecutor. This funding allows prosecutors to get involved in cases where the defendants are pro se, so victims do not face the offender alone in court. The ICJR funding allows for the specialized domestic violence prosecutors (one grant-funded and one in-kind) to enhance the prosecution of these crimes and promotes offender accountability through the collaboration with the Civil Compliance Monitor. This funding closed a gap on offender accountability in civil cases. This continued resource allows for more thorough monitoring and support in civil protective orders.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA (ICJR PROGRAM)**



### FL • Grantee Perspective

Funding has increased coordination between child welfare staff and batterer intervention instructors. Child welfare staff previously had limited interaction with these instructors to document enrollment and progress in the program, and were not fully evaluating the batterer's level of change. Funding has improved follow-through in the prosecution of violations of injunctions by bringing awareness to the violation when it's occurring. Prior to the project, only serious violations of injunctions were prosecuted, and other violations were never filed criminally and never transitioned from civil to criminal court. Funding has started to bring awareness to battering and create a culture that recognizes domestic violence abuse as a serious issue that carries strong consequences. Historically, child welfare services have focused on services for victims. The Justice for Families Grant has started to address the culprit of domestic abuse and seeks to assign appropriate responsibility to the offender. Giving some teeth to the compliance issue, offenders are being tracked and followed up on more consistently.

**FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
(JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**

expectations, and resources; tribal supervision plans may include alternate goals and objectives as offenders experience successes or setbacks (SMART, 2017).

Similarly, alternative goals and objectives may be used by probation and parole systems when working with sex trafficking perpetrators and their victims. Both offenders and victims may have been convicted of other crimes, and consequently, both may be assigned to general probation officers (Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research). The identification of victims is thus not always simple. Sex trafficking courts, or specialized criminal dockets for victims, can include diversion programs for sex trafficking victims that are generally staffed by probation staff acting as case managers, who tailor supervision to individual victims' needs, and support them in building resource networks (Ladd & Neufeld Weaver, 2017; Martin, 2014). However, recovery, skill development, and economic security are long-term processes reaching beyond the period of probation.

VAWA-funded grant programs promote the development and improvement of effective probation and parole strategies to address domestic/sexual violence. Five VAWA-funded grant programs—ICJR, Courts, Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Governments—used funds for probation activities. Other programs that are awarded funds for training can train probation and corrections personnel.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **48** Courts, ICJR, Justice for Families, Rural, and Tribal Governments Program grantees engaged in grant-funded probation activities;
- These grantees supported a semi-annual average of **27** full-time equivalent (FTE) probation officers;
- A semi-annual average of **22** ICJR and Rural Program grantees used funds to develop, support, and/or train specialized probation units; and
- Overall, VAWA-funded grantees trained at least **12,962** corrections personnel, including probation and parole officers, correctional facilities staff, and other offender monitors.

ICJR Program-funded probation agencies made **226,823** contacts with offenders and **13,125** contacts with victims. They disposed of **5,762** probation violations, of which **3,930** resulted in partial or full probation revocation, including incarceration.

# Services to Victims and Families



## Tribal • Grantee Perspective

T-SASP funding has allowed Family Violence Prevention Program to develop child advocacy services. This funding provides relevant training opportunities for the child advocate to be a more effective service provider. T-SASP funding allows the child survivor and the non-offending parent to have access to long-term supportive services that give them the support they need during the criminal justice process, and overall healing process. These child advocacy services link the family with resources and referrals to additional services such as housing, mental/behavioral health, court accompaniment, and financial assistance for families who have been financially impacted by child sexual abuse. Prior to this funding, families were often left without child advocacy services. T-SASP allows strength and support for our Native American children and families impacted by sexual violence. T-SASP funding has made a profound positive impact for our community.

### MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM (TRIBAL SASP)



## MD • Grantee Perspective

Since the funding, two case managers were hired to provide on-call crisis intervention during all clinic operating hours. These case managers are the backbone, passion, and greatest strength of the program. They provide exemplary direct service to survivors. They are survivor-centered, trauma-informed, queer-affirming, and committed to improving outcomes for survivors and community. In addition to the day-to-day work of the case managers, the funding has also allowed for drop-in programming and group programming specifically for queer survivors. There is a lack of services in the Chicagoland, MD area specifically designed for LGBTQ survivors. Additionally, the drop-in programming for young people acts as education on community violence, consent, and healthy sexual relationships. The funding has also encouraged ongoing conversations and partnerships with other agencies providing care for survivors. These strengthened partnerships have improved inter-agency communication and ultimately care of survivors.

### HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER, MARYLAND (UNDERSERVED PROGRAM)

Victims of domestic/sexual violence face multiple physical, emotional, and financial barriers when seeking to become and remain free from violence (Cho, Shamrova, Han, & Levchenko, 2017; Overstreet & Quinn, 2013). Extensive research has demonstrated that providing trauma-informed services and support that recognize the impact of trauma on victims can improve victim outcomes (Goodman, Thomas, et al., 2016). Nearly 1,900 domestic violence programs, and 1,300 rape crisis centers operate nationwide (National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women, 2001). These programs provide core services such as crisis intervention and advocacy, and a broader network of organizations provide further specialized education, preventive, or culturally specific services.

Advocates and communities have worked diligently to create responsive programs and services that address victims' complex needs. During the two-year reporting period, **18** current and formerly authorized VAWA discretionary grant programs funded direct services to victims, such as:

- Core services; including crisis intervention, hotline services, transportation, and referrals to community resources and agencies;
- Safety planning;
- Emergency assistance (e.g., clothing, food, medical care, and housing),
- Victim advocacy, counseling, and support;
- Criminal justice advocacy;
- Civil legal advocacy;
- Civil legal assistance;
- Victim-witness notification; and
- Medical response.

During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees provided services to **112,302**<sup>v</sup> victims, children, youth, and other dependents.

## Crisis Intervention Services

In 2010, more than one-quarter of women and more than one-tenth of men in the United States, suffered domestic/sexual violence, and, as a result, reported significant negative impacts requiring support (Breiding, Smith, et al., 2014). Many services are delivered to victims through crisis intervention, in which trained professionals, such as victim advocates or social workers, identify,

<sup>v</sup> This number does not include families served by Justice for Families, Supervised Visitation, and Tribal Governments grantees, or non-abusing parents receiving supportive services from Consolidated Youth grantees.



### NC • Grantee Perspective

For many survivors, learning about the options available and developing a safety plan is all they are prepared to do during their first visit to the Family Justice Center (FJC). FJC Intake Specialists provide information about domestic and sexual violence, available resources, and safety planning to these clients. After meeting with Intake Specialists, survivors are offered the opportunity to complete a feedback survey. During this reporting period, 98.5% of survey respondents reported they had a plan to keep themselves safe and 79.4% of respondents reported decreased levels of fear and anxiety after meeting with FJC Intake Specialists.

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA (ICJR PROGRAM)**



### CA • Grantee Perspective

The program outcome that has had the most impact on our students has been the continued grant funding to support the salary expenses of the Victim Advocate. With OWW funds and University of California Office of the President funding combined, our Victim Advocate is now full-time and available to students 24/7, if needed. She is able to be called out on hospital visits after hours and cover weekends for University of California Irvine students who need advocacy services. Additionally, with some of the OVV funds, the Assistant Director of UCI Campus Assault Resources & Education (CARE) is continuing to develop our Holistic Healing Program for those students who have been impacted by sexual violence. This program now includes our trauma-informed Yoga as Healing program, personal safety/self-defense classes, Art as Healing, Music as Healing, Horticulture as Healing, support groups, and a healing lending library of books for students.

**REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (CAMPUS PROGRAM)**

assess, and intervene to help an individual in crisis. Crisis intervention seeks to reduce the psychological stress a victim experiences during an immediate crisis, as well as in the aftermath of violence. It may involve delivering or brokering emergency housing, legal assistance, healthcare, and economic services, coupled with emotional support, risk assessment, and safety planning.

Crisis intervention assistance can include 24-hour hotlines, victim advocacy, medical accompaniment, emergency shelter, and referrals to other community-based services. Telephone hotlines, which emerged alongside rape crisis centers in the mid-1970s, offer support to victims of domestic/sexual violence, and are available at national, state, and local levels (Colvin, Pruett, Young, & Holosko, 2016; Maier, 2011). There have been recent efforts to increase the accessibility of these services by expanding online chat and text hotlines (Love Is Respect, 2017; National Domestic Violence Hotline, 2017; RAINN, 2017).

A core component of crisis intervention is safety planning, done in collaboration with victims (Davies & Lyon, 2013; Davies, 2009; Ford-Gilboe et al., 2017; Goodman, Thomas, et al., 2016; Kulkarni, Bell, & Rhodes, 2012; Linnell & Davies, 2017; Macy, Martin, Nwabuzor Ogbonnaya, & Rizo, 2016; Messing, Ward-Lasher, Thaller, & Bagwell-Gray, 2015; Murray et al., 2015; Nichols, 2013; Sullivan, 2018). Ideally, safety plans provide for safety from immediate violence and incorporate longer term goals, and they can be modified as victim preferences and conditions change. Individualized plans should incorporate risk assessments to gauge the likelihood that victims and their children might endure further violence. Safety plans may or may not include leaving abusive situations as the ultimate goal, depending on a victim's preferred outcomes and the victim's knowledge of how best to stay safe from further abuse. Regardless, safety plans must also incorporate economic, health, housing, and educational needs; and must consider whether the victim will remain in contact with the abusive partner.

Crisis intervention is also vital for sexual assault victims, who may be re-traumatized by the legal and medical systems as well as their families and peer groups. When advocates are present in proceedings following a rape, victims fare better in both the short- and long-term, experiencing less psychological distress, physical health struggles, sexual risk-taking behaviors, self-blame, guilt, depression, and barriers to continued engagement in legal matters (Douglas, 2017b; Patterson & Campbell, 2010; Patterson & Tringali, 2015; Xie & Lynch, 2016). A recent study found that access to and utilization of victim services reduced the associated risk of revictimization by 40% (Xie & Lynch, 2016). Another study found that rape survivors with advocates were more likely to have police reports taken (59% of the time) than those without advocates, whose reports were taken only 41% of the time (Campbell, 2006).

Across the two-year reporting period, VAWA-funded grantees responded to **575,162** hotline calls. During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees provided **35,230** primary victims with crisis intervention services.

## Shelter and Transitional Housing

If victims fleeing abusers cannot find immediate shelter or new housing, they may have no choice but to stay or return to abusive situations. VAWA-funded shelters and transitional housing programs can offer victims and their children alternatives to homelessness. Shelters offer short-term emergency housing and support, and transitional housing programs provide extended housing and support services. These allow victims time to work toward physical, emotional, and economic recovery and to establish permanent, safe, and affordable residences for themselves and their children. Unfortunately, victims and service providers consistently report a severe lack of both emergency shelter and affordable long-term housing. This shortfall was routinely cited by VAWA-funded communities across the country.

Women and men who have experienced housing insecurity are at higher risk for rape, physical violence, or stalking. NISVS found that 10% of women and 8% of men who faced housing insecurity were victims of intimate partner violence, as compared with 2.3% of women and 3.1% of men who did not face housing insecurity (Breiding, Chen, & Black, 2014). Housing instability is a strong predictor of poor health outcomes for those in abusive relationships, exacerbating PTSD, depression, substance abuse, medical noncompliance, absences from work and/or school, and hospital/emergency room use (Daoud et al., 2016; Rollins et al., 2012).

Shelter and transitional housing programs that support victims in escaping abuse can help remove barriers to long-term housing security. They may also provide follow-up support, counseling and advocacy, legal assistance, financial literacy education and employment counseling, and referrals to other sources of help. In fact, helping victims find stable housing requires addressing interconnected issues related to trauma, poverty, disabilities, and discrimination, and an advocate may spend up to 10 hours or more per week with each victim (Sullivan, López-Zerón, Bomsta, & Menard, 2018). Women who reside in a shelter tend to receive a broader range of support services for a longer period of time, compared to women who never enter a shelter (Grossman & Lundy, 2011; Sullivan & Virden, 2017b). A recent study found that the amount of help received in a shelter positively influenced victims' ability to advocate for themselves and their hopefulness for the future (Sullivan & Virden, 2017a).

VAWA-funded transitional housing bridges the gap between emergency and permanent housing. Programs offer a wide range of services (e.g., case management, child care, financial assistance, therapy, job and education development, parenting groups, etc.) to help victims establish self-sufficiency. Housing units are either owned or rented by the programs, from local housing authorities or private landlords. Programs may provide housing at no cost to the victim or provide subsidies to offset rental costs, and may pay all or portions of required deposits, utilities, and phone services. Residents are generally permitted to remain in transitional housing units from six months to two years and are typically required to establish goals to work toward economic stability.



### ID • Grantee Perspective

During this reporting period, we provided full housing assistance and services to 13 families. This program has allowed many families the option to flee their abusive situations, secure housing options, and receive services much faster than other housing programs in the community. Ada County has very limited housing options for victims fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault, including a wait list for shelters and limited supportive housing. Without this funding, victims would have no choice but to remain with their abuser, or live in places not meant for human habitation.

**ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY, IDAHO  
(TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM)**



### IA • Grantee Perspective

The most helpful part of Transitional Housing funding has been our ability to better meet the needs of survivors with mental illness. This has been a tremendous barrier for many local service providers due to the lack of permanent supportive housing and in-patient mental health care options in our area. With this funding, we feel better equipped to organize community responses around a victim and meet one of their most basic needs: housing. For example, one of our participants has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and had been staying in our shelter for several months before transitional housing was made available to her. Through this funding, we were able to provide her with her own one-bedroom apartment, away from the difficulties of communal living that are a part of shelter services. Now that she is in a less hectic environment and has control over her own space, she is triggered less often, and meetings with the Coordinator and her other community supports have been more productive.

**ASSAULT CARE CENTER EXTENDING SHELTER, IOWA  
(TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM)**



### NE • Grantee Perspective

People often think that all a fleeing survivor will need is shelter and food, but there is so much more to it once you actually start working with them. With Rural funds, we have been lucky enough to help with gas vouchers, hotel rooms, medication and appointments, pet care/shelter, mental health, and rekeying locks. We were able to help 175 survivors and 57 children just with these services. The Rural Program makes it so we can do what we do and help our four-county coverage area.

**SPOUSE ABUSE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTER,  
NEBRASKA (RURAL PROGRAM)**



### WI • Grantee Perspective

Before we received this funding, we had to turn down survivors who had nowhere else to turn, and oftentimes were in shelter, or ask them to wait for months (sometimes years) to see if they could qualify for legal funds and grants as they became available. This funding, while it may not allow us to provide all services pro bono, has dramatically increased our abilities to provide quality pro bono assistance to survivors of SA and DV.

**END DOMESTIC ABUSE WISCONSIN (LEGAL  
ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAM)**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

The funding from OVV under the current award has enabled Shalom Task Force to improve the quality of services to victims by enabling us to maintain a consistent level of staff for our Domestic Violence Hotline and increase the level of staff hours for victim advocacy/paralegal services on our legal program, Sarah's Voice. This increase in Sarah's Voice advocacy/paralegal staff has been especially vital because the case load has increased more than 50% since we added a second attorney to the project. Prior to the current Underserved grant, we only had a person filling this position three days a week. With this funding, we have been able to dedicate 20% of the staff Victim's Advocate (VA) time purely to victim advocacy. This has enabled the staff member to take a greater role in following cases from beginning to end, and being a main point of contact for survivors requiring advocacy.

**SHALOM TASK FORCE, NEW YORK (UNDERSERVED  
PROGRAM)**

During each six-month reporting period, on average:

- Transitional Housing Program grantees provided transitional housing to **1,054** victims, **1,525** children, and **26** other dependents, and provided **1,004** victims with vouchers or rent subsidies for housing; and
- Abuse in Later Life, CSSP, Disability, Rural, Tribal Governments, Underserved, and Youth Services Program grantees provided emergency shelter to **2,442** victims and **2,219** family members, and provided transitional housing to **286** victims and **407** family members.<sup>vi</sup>

Across the two-year reporting period:

- Transitional Housing Program grantees provided a total of **1,260,316** bed nights, and spent **\$8,256,410** on vouchers and rent subsidies for housing; and
- Abuse in Later Life, CSSP, Disability, Rural, Tribal Governments, Underserved, and Youth Services Program grantees provided a total of **298,197** emergency bed nights and a total of **189,092** transitional housing bed nights.<sup>vii</sup>

## Legal Advocacy and Legal Services

Providing legal advocacy and representation for victims of domestic/sexual violence, and ensuring the legal system is responsive to their needs is essential to ending these forms of violence. Knowledgeable VAWA-funded attorneys and legal advocates can provide victims with information, support, and representation in both civil and criminal matters. Since these processes can often be confusing and intimidating, attorneys and advocates can enhance victims' experience in the legal system and improve outcomes by supporting them through attorney access, support with self-representation, and language and disability assistance (National Center for Access to Justice, 2018).

The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant Program is the only VAWA program focused exclusively on providing civil and criminal legal assistance for victims of domestic/sexual violence. VAWA 2013 expanded services under the STOP and Rural Programs to include comprehensive legal assistance, and it established the Justice for Families Program, which includes a legal services component. The Tribal Governments Program can also support legal services.

<sup>vi</sup> These numbers do not include emergency shelter provided to non-abusing parents (67) or accompanying family members (120) served by Consolidated Youth grantees.

<sup>vii</sup> These numbers do not include the number of emergency shelter bed nights (17,102) provided by Consolidated Youth grantees.



VAWA-funded attorneys provided victims with direct representation, most often in protection order cases but also in family law (i.e., divorce, parental rights and responsibilities, custody/visitation, and child and spousal support), immigration, housing, consumer credit, employment, and other matters, during the two-year reporting period.<sup>viii</sup>

Representation in family law matters is especially crucial for victims of domestic violence, because offenders may continue to exert control over victims by using the legal system to force contact, restrict victims' access to protection, make implicit threats, and create ongoing challenges through litigation. Through these forms of "paper abuse," offenders can exert coercive control long after victims end the abusive relationship. Victims with children are particularly vulnerable because offenders routinely use the courts to challenge custody, child support, and visitation arrangements (Campbell, 2017; Douglas, 2017b; Miller & Smolter, 2011; Watson & Ancis, 2013). Furthermore, judges and court-appointed third parties, like mediators and custody evaluators, do not necessarily have the requisite understanding of domestic/sexual violence, and their decisions and recommendations do not always account for the safety needs of victims and their children (Campbell, 2017; Saunders, 2015; Saunders, Faller, & Tolman, 2016).

Attorneys and/or advocates may also assist victims in criminal cases, although they cannot use OVV grant funds to serve as defense counsel for victims who have been charged with crimes. They may accompany the victim to meetings with the prosecutor to clarify evidentiary matters, request bail conditions or modifications, and discuss plea agreements and sentencing sanctions. Research shows that when victims receive services from civil attorneys and community-based advocates, they experience strengthened protection from revictimization and improved self-efficacy in and out of the courtroom (Cattaneo, Goodman, Epstein, Kohn, & Zanville, 2009; Cops Hartley & Renner, 2016). Additionally, victims who had empowering experiences in criminal court reported greater financial stability, mental health, and self-advocacy six months later (Cattaneo & Goodman, 2010; Goodman, Fauci, Sullivan, DiGiovanni, & Wilson, 2016). They were also more likely to report intending to use the legal system if violence recurred.

In addition to the assistance attorneys offer, advocates can also support victims navigating the legal system. Criminal justice advocacy can be provided by governmental victim assistants (also known as victim-witness specialists or advocates) in law enforcement and prosecution offices, and includes:

- Explaining the criminal justice system and what to expect at each stage of the proceedings;
- Assisting with victim impact statements;
- Accompanying victims to hearings and interviews;

<sup>viii</sup> Only attorneys funded by the five aforementioned programs could provide a full range of legal services; however, attorneys and paralegals funded under the ICJR, Campus, CSSP, Courts, Rural, Transitional Housing, Underserved, and Youth Services Programs also provided victims with limited assistance with legal issues, such as help with obtaining protection orders.



#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

With the addition of two advocates, we provided additional one-on-one and group counseling services; job and vocational training services; public assistance, food, and clothing; legal and medical advocacy; weekly support meetings; and information and referrals. We were able to provide increased transportation to program participants who need rides in order to attend support groups, keep medical and/or court appointments, and apply for employment and housing. We've been able to increase our advocacy initiatives, which include efforts to educate the community and inform survivors of their options. We've been able to provide additional awareness campaigns and public presentations. All of these initiatives support and strengthen survivors and encourage them to seek assistance.

#### **NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**



#### **IA • Grantee Perspective**

ICJR grant funding allowed us to hire and train three people to serve as courthouse-based points-of-contact within three judicial districts across the state. This is significant because one of the main comments we consistently received from DV victims over the past five years was the need to have someone at the courthouse to help them navigate the process. Victims expressed concern and frustration with not understanding the criminal and/or civil process and not knowing what questions to ask and who they could ask once they came to the courthouse. By hiring these courthouse points-of-contact, victims will no longer feel alone, abandoned, and intimidated by the very system that is meant to support and protect them.

#### **IOWA STATE JUDICIAL BRANCH (ICJR PROGRAM)**



### VT • Grantee Perspective

So often we run into the issue of victims not being able to afford an attorney or legal advice, thus leaving them to feel inadequate in the courtroom and intimidated by their abuser. Navigating the legal system is difficult and intimidating as it is, but having the legal clinic to guide and help a victim has made an immense impact. Prior to the clinics, it was tough for advocates when it came to giving proper referrals and information, especially because community resources for legal guidance were non-existent. Taking time to give victims/survivors basic legal knowledge is truly empowering and lets them steer their own boat.

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, VERMONT (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**

- Notifying victims of the release of perpetrators from custody, dates of upcoming hearings, continuances, and other events in the criminal case;
- Making meaningful referrals to other services, as appropriate; and
- Preparing crime victim compensation applications.

Civil legal advocacy can also be provided by nongovernmental or community-based advocates and paralegals, and includes:

- Helping victims prepare protection order applications;
- Accompanying them to protection order or other civil or administrative hearings; and
- Advocating at administrative hearings on such issues as eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, unemployment benefits, crime victim compensation, insurance, and Social Security benefits.

The Legal Assistance for Victims Program (LAV Program) is the primary VAWA-funded vehicle for delivering legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence. During each six-month reporting period, on average, LAV Program grantees:

- Provided services to **28,204** victims and addressed **40,816** legal issues;
- Helped **6,436** victims with more than one type of legal issue (23% of those provided with services); and
- Most frequently supported victims in seeking protection orders (**8,984**), divorces (**7,409**), child custody and visitation (**6,987**), and child support (**4,012**).

During each six-month reporting period, on average, other VAWA-funded grantees provided:<sup>ix</sup>

- Civil legal assistance from attorneys and paralegals to **4,709** victims, primarily limited to assistance with protection orders;
- Civil legal advocacy from nongovernmental or community-based advocates and paralegals to **19,780** victims; and
- Criminal justice advocacy from governmental victim assistants, victim-witness specialists, or advocates to **16,704** victims.

## Orders of Protection

Protection orders are a frequent remedy in the justice system. Victims of domestic violence are able to petition for a civil order of protection in every state (Parker, Gielen, Castillo, Webster, & Glass, 2016; Richards, Tudor, & Gover, 2018). In addition to prohibiting or limiting an offender's contact with the victim and prohibiting further abusive behavior, orders may address custody, visitation, economic support, firearms restrictions, and other conditions

<sup>ix</sup> These numbers do not include a semi-annual average of 94 victims who received legal advocacy from Campus grantees.

tailored to the victim's needs, circumstances, and preferences (Fleury-Steiner, Miller, Maloney, & Bonistall Postel, 2014; Messing, Vega, & Durfee, 2017).

Protection orders should provide victims flexibility, authority, and remedies not available in the prosecution of a criminal case (Logan & Walker, 2009a).

VAWA defines protection orders broadly, and its full faith and credit provision requires that all valid protection orders be enforced in all jurisdictions within the United States, including tribal lands and territories (Battered Women's Justice Project, 2016; Richards et al., 2018). Not every state allows victims of sexual assault and stalking to petition for and receive protection orders unless they have been the spouse or intimate partner of, or in a family or household relationship with, their abuser (Fields, 2017; National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2018).

In 2015, 20 states took action to reform their protection order statutes (Hastings, 2016). Some established or strengthened criminal sanctions for violating orders and addressed obstacles to enforcement; others increased victims' access to protection orders. Other recent reforms include introducing relief measures to protect victims and families from economic harm (e.g., requiring the respondent to continue paying basic expenses, prohibiting disposal or transfer of property, or requiring return of identification documents) (Bickett, Sheeran, & Smith, 2016). Protective order-related firearm bans need further attention, due to a variety of barriers to enforcement (Fleury-Steiner, Miller, & Carcirieri, 2017; Goggins, 2016b). A recent study funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics recommends systems address this service gap through training, allocation of staff energy, automation, and inter-agency collaboration (Goggins, 2016b).

Research has shown that petitioners' perceptions of safety increased after receiving protection orders, even in cases where orders were violated (Cattaneo, Grossmann, & Chapman, 2016; Logan & Walker, 2009a; Logan, Walker, Hoyt, & Faragher, 2009). Women using emergency shelter services who also obtained a protection order were found to experience fewer PTSD symptoms and less sexual violence six months after leaving the shelter than sheltered women without protection orders (Messing, O'Sullivan, Cavanaugh, Webster, & Campbell, 2017; Wright & Johnson, 2012).

Although victims can obtain civil protection orders without legal representation, VAWA-funded attorneys, paralegals, and legal advocates can be valuable resources for victims engaged in this process. Research shows that attorney representation, particularly attorneys with domestic/sexual violence experience, is associated with more favorable outcomes for victims, compared to outcomes for victims without an attorney and victims with privately retained attorneys lacking expertise in domestic violence (Kernic, 2015). In addition, cases in which LAV-funded attorneys represented victims in protection order hearings resulted in better agreements, increased court efficiency, and high victim satisfaction (Institute for Law and Justice, 2005).

During the two-year reporting period, VAWA-funded professionals (e.g., advocates, law enforcement personnel, and prosecutors) provided assistance to victims in securing **49,004** final civil protection orders.

*VAWA 2013 authorized the Justice for Families (JFF) Program, which consolidated the purpose areas from two pre-existing VAWA-funded programs—Court Training and Improvements and Supervised Visitation and Exchange—and added new purpose areas as well. Justice for Families grantees provide legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence.*



#### **MN • Grantee Perspective**

The surveillance officer's ability to monitor offenders from the time of their release to final dispositions and throughout probation is a crucial component to the success of holding offenders accountable for their choices. The offenders know that the surveillance officer is watching them and making sure they are following the orders given by the judicial system. In doing this, our surveillance officer has managed to take the necessary steps needed to notify offenders that violations will not go undetected. The surveillance officer reported that this program works in holding offenders accountable and increases victim safety. One example he shared involved a case where the offender had pressured the victim to recant her story and encouraged her not to testify during the trial. The charges were dismissed because she never came to testify. Unbeknownst to the offender was the fact that the surveillance officer had picked up on some clues throughout the time he had been surveilling him and discovered a piece of evidence that established he had contact with the victim during the time a domestic abuse no contact order was in place. This discovery validated a violation had taken place, which led the offender to be screened back into the program. This is a critical example of how the surveillance officer was able to stay one step ahead of the offender and how accountability can take place without placing that burden to testify onto the victim.

**PEARL BATTERED WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER,  
MINNESOTA (JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Unit has instituted a procedure wherein the deputies review orders of protection served in court and follow up on orders requiring the surrender of firearms by interviewing defendants, confiscating firearms not voluntarily surrendered, and making arrests when appropriate. Deputies augment enforcement efforts and work to ensure victim, offender, and officer safety on high risk service of protection orders, warrants and forcible exclusions. The grant funding allows the SCPD DV/EA Bureau not only to identify victims at high risk through the improvement of the DVRR program, but has also enhanced outreach to victims of domestic violence by offering a joint visit with police officers and advocates trained in assisting victims identified at high risk. The funding allows for home visits to the victims during evening hours when they are not at their employment.

#### SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK (ICJR PROGRAM)

LAV Program grantees primarily deliver legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence. During each six-month reporting period, on average, LAV Program grantees provided assistance to **8,984** victims seeking protection orders.

ICJR Program grantees focus on improving the enforcement of protection orders. Across the two-year reporting period, ICJR Program grantees engaged in the following activities, some of which were supported through VAWA funding:<sup>x</sup>

- Law enforcement agencies made **5,445** arrests for violations of protection orders;
- Prosecution offices disposed of **4,415** protection order violations, with 56% resulting in convictions;<sup>xi</sup>
- Courts conducted post-conviction judicial monitoring, disposing of **63** violations of protection orders by offenders;
- Courts imposed sanctions such as partial or total revocation of probation, fines, and/or added conditions for **83%** of those violations; and
- Probation agencies supervised offenders who had **795** protection order violations, **83%** of which resulted in the imposition of sanctions.

The Courts and Justice for Families Programs support courts in improving their responses to victims of domestic/sexual violence. Across the two-year reporting period, Courts and Justice for Families Program-funded courts:

- Issued **4,668** final civil protection orders;
- Disposed of **1,237** protection order violation cases in criminal courts, with **73%** resulting in convictions;<sup>xii</sup> and
- Conducted post-conviction judicial monitoring, disposing of **529** violations of protection orders by offenders and imposing sanctions for **84%** of those violations.

## Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Services

For many victims of domestic violence, leaving the relationship does not end the abuse perpetrated by their partners. The risk of abuse to the non-abusing parent and children during or immediately after separation, divorce, or the arrest of the abuser often continues or increases; in some cases, abusers may kill their partners and children during this escalating period of violence (Rezey, 2017; Ward-Lasher, Messing, Cimino, & Campbell, 2018; Watson & Ancis, 2013).<sup>340,364,365</sup> After separation, children are often exposed, directly or indirectly, to violence, threats, intimidation, manipulation, and coercive controls, which can profoundly compromise their emotional stability and psychological well-being (Crossman, Hardesty, & Raffaelli, 2016; Thomas,

<sup>x</sup> ICJR Program grantees' criminal justice activities reach beyond the individual unit, and, as a result, grantees report criminal justice data for the entire agency within the jurisdiction.

<sup>xi</sup> This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents 4% of all conviction outcomes.

<sup>xii</sup> This conviction rate includes deferred adjudications, which represents 5% of all conviction outcomes.

Goodman, & Putnins, 2015; Hayes, 2015). Despite the noted harmful effects of post-separation violence and abuse on victims and children, custody evaluators regularly fail to recommend visitation arrangements that best improve the well-being of children and prevent direct contact between the abused and abusive parents (Davis, O'Sullivan, Susser, & Fields, 2011; Saunders et al., 2016; Saunders & Oglesby, 2016; Staroneck & Ake, 2018).

The Justice for Families and Tribal Governments Programs fund visitation and exchange programs designed to address the safety and security needs of victims of domestic/sexual violence or child sexual abuse. These grantees follow six guiding principles developed by a National Steering Committee (Office on Violence Against Women, 2007):

- Equal regard for the safety of child and adult victims;
- Appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity;
- Incorporation of an understanding of domestic violence into center services;
- Respectful and fair interactions;
- Community collaboration; and
- Advocacy for child and adult victims.

A supervised visitation and exchange program can protect children during visits with their abusing parents by first identifying abusive tactics and then intervening on behalf of the victim and children (Parker, Rogers, Collins, & Edleson, 2008; Saini, Van Wert, & Gofman, 2012). These programs offer a safe place for the exchange of a child or a secure and nurturing environment for children to interact with non-custodial parents. Visitation centers employ multiple safety strategies, such as staggered drop-off/pickup times and separate entrances and exits. Staff at supervised visitation centers are trained to intervene during the parent/child visit so that any threats to safety are addressed and the abusive parent is redirected.

During each six-month reporting period, on average, Justice for Families, Supervised Visitation, and Tribal Governments Program grantees provided services to **2,916** families, including **4,365** children, **2,930** custodial parents, and **2,905** non-custodial parents (the Supervised Visitation Program was eliminated under VAWA 2013, but grants from previous years were still active during the period covered by this report).

Across the two-year reporting period, these grantees provided the following services to families:

- A total of **86,475** one-to-one visits to a semi-annual average of **1,947** families; and
- A total of **47,708** supervised exchanges to a semi-annual average of **799** families.

Families were most likely to be referred to the program by a family court order (**56%**), and to have issues of domestic violence (**86%**).



#### MN • Grantee Perspective

This program has allowed us to have this service in our rural, sparsely populated location. Without OVV funding, there would not be supervised visitation and safe exchange services in Aitkin County as there are no other funding opportunities. Without Remnica House, the county would be tasked with providing this service they cannot sustain, nor can they offer hours conducive to families' schedules.

**ADVOCATES AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE, MINNESOTA  
(JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM)**

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Historically Underserved and Other Vulnerable Populations

While domestic/sexual violence affects all communities, historically marginalized and underserved populations can suffer disproportionately high rates of violence and face unique challenges and barriers to safety and justice when they are victimized. Access to resources, religious beliefs, cultural practices, race or ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexuality, age, language, immigration status, geographic location, and economic opportunity are all factors that can affect how a victim perceives, manages, and resists violence (Bridges, Karlsson, Jackson, Andrews, & Villalobos, 2018; Cho, 2012; Cho et al., 2017; Cheng & Lo, 2015; O’Neal & Beckman, 2016; Weng, 2016). Further, race and gender bias in the justice system, coupled with a lack of training and clear policies for mitigating those biases, adversely affects women victims, LGBT victims, and victims of color when they report crimes to law enforcement (U.S. Department of Justice, 2016). For example, a recent study of law enforcement’s use of exceptional clearance in rape cases—intended only for extraordinary circumstances, such as death of the offender—found that almost half (47%) of cases are exceptionally cleared, which suggests widespread misuse of this clearance category for rape cases (Walfield, 2016). Emerging research also indicates that race and victim-suspect relationship, when considered in tandem, impact both the likelihood and type of clearance in sexual assault cases (O’Neal et al., 2016; Stacey et al., 2016). In many instances, law enforcement agencies fail to implement best practices for investigating rape due to misguided skepticism regarding victim credibility, which can result in the denial of justice and ongoing threats to public safety, as well as the unwarranted prosecution of the victim (Avalos, 2017; Page, 2010).

Research documenting domestic/sexual violence in underserved communities is limited, in part due to research designs that do not adequately identify, recruit, and retain minority participants (Ahrens, Isas, & Viveros, 2011; Bows, 2017; Dong, 2015; Findley, Plummer, & McMahon, 2016; Lacey & Mouzon, 2016; Mechanic & Pole, 2013; O’Neal & Beckman, 2016; Plummer & Findley, 2012; Sabri, Campbell, & Dabby, 2016; Stockman, Hayashi, & Campbell, 2015; Trabold, McMahon, Alsobrooks, Whitney, & Mittal, 2018; Valdovinos & Mechanic, 2017; Waters, 2016). Studies that do not include culturally competent research protocols may limit the disclosure of abuse, contributing to the pervasive underreporting of domestic/sexual violence. Both researchers and service providers point to the need for community-based, participatory research to better determine the prevalence of these crimes and culturally appropriate interventions (Robertson, Chaudhary Nagaraj, & Vyas, 2016; White, Yuan, Cook, & Abbey, 2012; Yuan, Belcourt-Dittloff, Schultz, Packard, & Duran, 2015).

The United States has a history of migration, and a diverse, changing population. In 2017, over one-third (38.7%) of the population identified

VAWA defines “underserved populations” to include “populations traditionally underserved due to geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age).”



## CA • Grantee Perspective

Culturally Specific Services Program funding ensures that Jenesse has the staffing capacity to provide mental health services to African American/Black women who, in addition to being victims of domestic violence, also identify as having mental health issues. Our staff members are culturally and linguistically consistent with the population served by the agency. Jenesse Center has contracted with South Central Training Consortium to manage and oversee the mental health program. The services provided include a clinical director who will facilitate four trainings on culturally specific counseling and treatment methods for the mental health specialist, case manager, and interns, in addition to providing individual and group counseling to the program participants. Additionally, CSSP provides funding for the case manager, who provides direct services including referrals and follow-up. Jenesse has always tailored its programs and activities to meet the needs of African American/Black victims and survivors of domestic violence and other underserved populations.

**JENESSE CENTER, INC., CALIFORNIA (CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**



### MA • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed North American Indian Center of Boston to plan and deliver culturally relevant and absolutely necessary programming and services that would otherwise not be available due to limited organizational resources. We have seen the hope in the eyes of the women we speak to about the program and feel inspired to bring more awareness and services to the forefront of our community, including services to prevent violence against Native American women and programs that empower Native women to be brave, strong, and committed to positive change in their lives.

**NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS (CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments Program funding has allowed our program to maintain the youth advocate, a professional fully dedicated to a specific population that is often not served by advocacy programs. With the high rates of domestic and sexual violence being committed against Native women, it can be expected that high numbers of children and youth are also being exposed to this violence. Since we know that dating/domestic violence is a learned behavior, it continues to be increasingly important that we focus resources on educating youth on healthy relationships and teaching that this kind of violence is not traditional nor acceptable in our Muskogee culture. The youth advocate is the one professional within our expansive jurisdiction who is dedicated to educating teens, parents, and professionals about healthy relationships and abusive behaviors.

**MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**

as a member of a racial or ethnic minority group, such as Asian or Asian American; Black or of African descent; Latinx<sup>xiii</sup> or Hispanic; Native American or American Indian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; multi-racial; along with other religious and ethnic minorities (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017b). Some studies indicate that particular minority populations may suffer higher rates of domestic/sexual violence than other populations; other studies show prevalence rates that are similar to the general public (Campbell et al., 2003; Cho, 2012; Clark, Galano, Grogan-Kaylor, Montalvo-Liendo, & Graham-Bermann, 2016; Lacey, West, Matusko, & Jackson, 2016; Mugoya et al., 2017; Smith et al., 2017; Violence Policy Center, 2017). Regardless of the prevalence of domestic/sexual violence in any particular community, racial, ethnic, and/or religious minorities may encounter barriers to seeking services and escaping violence due to factors such as poverty, racism, isolation, exclusion, cultural norms, immigration status, limited access to services, and a dearth of linguistically and/or culturally appropriate services (Alvarez & Fedock, 2016; Caetano, Schafer, & Cunradi, 2001; Campbell et al., 2008; Choi, Elkins, & Disney, 2016; Crenshaw, 1991; Dabby, 2017; Deutsch et al., 2017; Femi-Ajao, Kendal, & Lovell, 2018; Ho, Dinh, & Smith, 2017; Kapur, Zajicek, & Gaber, 2017; Lee, 2013; Lee & Hadeed, 2009; Mose & Gillum, 2015; O’Neal & Beckman, 2016; Shalabi, Mitchell, & Andersson, 2015; Stockman et al., 2014; St. Vil, Sabri, Nwokolo, Alexander, & Campbell, 2017; Yoshihama, Bybee, Dabby, & Blazeovski, 2011). As the United States becomes a more diverse country, researchers and practitioners alike must better understand the impact of violence on different communities, the barriers victims face in seeking services, and best practices for systems to respond effectively and in ways that account for cultural and social differences.

In addition to racial and ethnic minorities, other historically underserved and vulnerable populations—such as immigrants and refugees; people with disabilities; elderly persons; children and youth; people living in rural areas; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) people—face unique challenges and barriers to accessing criminal justice, receiving services, and obtaining social and economic supports.

In response, Congress authorized VAWA funding to assist historically underserved victims with the unique challenges they face when seeking to become and remain free from violence.

During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees served:<sup>xiv</sup>

- **9,349** victims who identified as American Indians or Alaska Natives;
- **4,625** victims who identified as Asian;
- **17,491** victims who identified as Black or African American;
- **24,062** victims who identified as Latinx or Hispanic;

<sup>xiii</sup> While the demographics questions on grantee reporting forms include the race/ethnicity category ‘Hispanic or Latino’, for the purposes of this report, the term Latinx will be used as a gender-neutral term for individuals of Latin American descent.

<sup>xiv</sup> Victims were reported once in each race/ethnicity category that applied.



- **564** victims who identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander;
- **16,577** victims who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers;
- **17,577** victims with limited English proficiency;
- **8,655** victims with disabilities;
- **125** victims who identified as Deaf or hard of hearing;
- **4,630** victims who were 60 or older;
- **4,778** victims who were children or youth (infancy to age 17);<sup>xv</sup>
- **28,232** victims who lived in rural areas;
- **8,760** victims who identified as male; and
- **326** victims who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ).<sup>xvi</sup>

## American Indians and Alaska Natives

American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) are a diverse people, represented by 566 federally recognized tribes (Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2017). In 2016, the estimated combined total population of American Indians and Alaska Natives (alone and in combination with other races) reached 6.7 million, or about 2% of the total United States population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017a). Approximately 78% of American Indian and Alaska Natives (alone and in combination with other races) live outside tribal lands, an increase of 3% since the 2000 Census. Due to a history of colonization, displacement, and racism, AI/AN persons and communities face markedly high rates of housing instability, food insecurity, alcohol and drug misuse and abuse, limited income and education, and ill health (Indian Health Services, 2017; Office of Minority Health, 2018; Penman-Aguilar, Bouye, & Liburd, 2016; Pindus et al., 2017; U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2012). More than one-quarter (26%) of AI/AN people live in poverty, a rate higher than any other single racial group (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017a).

AI/AN women report higher rates of intimate partner violence than women of any other ethnic or racial background (Chmielowska & Fuhr, 2017; Herrschaft & Dolan, 2013). A nationally representative study found that AI/AN women were 1.2 times more likely to experience domestic violence than non-Hispanic white women (Rosay, 2016). Nearly half (46%) of AI/AN women suffer some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime (Smith et al., 2017). Homicide rates are also particularly high among AI/AN women, who may be murdered at more than 10 times the national average (Bachman, Zaykowski, Kallmyer, Poteyeva, & Lanier, 2008; Petrosky et al., 2017; Wilson, 2017). Due to the high

<sup>xv</sup> These numbers do not include children and youth indirectly exposed to violence who were served (1,260) by Consolidated Youth and STEP grantees.

<sup>xvi</sup> All grant programs serve victims of domestic/sexual violence who identify as LGBTQ. As of this report, data on the number of victims who identify as LGBTQ is only available from Consolidated Youth, Justice for Families, STEP, and Youth Services grantees.



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments Program funding has allowed the Chickasaw Nation to maintain emergency shelter services for Native and non-Native American women and children fleeing domestic violence. The Chonkash Yohbi Chuka Women's Shelter provides a cultural, safe environment on tribal land where residents receive food, clothing, and other necessities to recover from the trauma they have endured. In addition, advocacy, individual and group counseling, cultural enrichment activities, safety planning, career development, supportive staff, transportation, and other services are provided. Shelter staff also provide referrals to resources available within the department and tribe to transition to independent living.

#### CHICKASAW NATION (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding allows the program to advocate on behalf of victims, giving them the greatest opportunity to break the cycle of violence and safely leave a violent situation. It has established one of only four tribal shelters in the state of Oklahoma, which is home to 39 federally recognized tribes. In an area heavily populated with Native Americans, this funding assists with providing culturally sensitive services to a population that suffers among the highest rates of domestic and sexual assault.

#### SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Coalitions funding has allowed us to maintain a presence in tribal communities. The funding helps us bridge communication gaps between communities and build a stronger networking system through the monthly regional advocacy meetings. It's a great place for advocates to network, share strengths and challenges in programming, and help build capacity around all forms of violence. Without the funding, the advocates would remain in silos and victims would have to work harder to get services. This is particularly important since we know that victims don't just remain in one tribal community their whole lives; they may jump from community to community due to family and economics.

#### MENDING THE SACRED HOOP (TRIBAL COALITIONS PROGRAM)

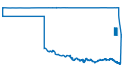
*In 2012, to facilitate collaboration and the prosecution of intimate partner crimes committed in Indian Country, OVW implemented the Violence Against Women Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Pilot Project (SAUSA). Tribal SAUSAs, who are cross-deputized tribal prosecutors, are able to prosecute crimes in both tribal and federal courts, as appropriate. The goal of the program is to train eligible tribal prosecutors in federal law, rules of criminal procedure, and investigative techniques to increase the likelihood that criminal offenses can be prosecuted in tribal court, federal court, or both. The Tribal SAUSA project also helps to accelerate a tribal criminal justice system's implementation of TLOA and VAWA 2013.*



#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

This OVW Grant enables our Tribe to provide direct services to victims. That these services are provided to victims by their own community transforms the discussion from ensuring that our victims receive culturally-appropriate services from our partners to having our victims receiving appropriate services in a culturally meaningful way. For the victims in our tribal community, the services the domestic violence victim advocate provides not only meet the specific need, but empower the victim with the knowledge that their own Nation has stated, without question, that domestic violence is not a traditional value.

**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI  
(TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**



#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

This funding allows the Tribe to maintain a tribal sexual assault program that has a specifically trained sexual assault advocate. It has allowed a full-time, devoted advocate to work with victims of sexual assault. Sexual assault cases are often confusing and very emotional. This advocate is specifically trained in the area of sexual assault and exhibits care and compassion to each victim, giving them a safe haven and listening ear which is too often not how victims are received. The advocate receives training on tribal, state, and federal levels in order to best assist victims.

**SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE PROGRAM (TRIBAL SASP)**

rates of domestic/sexual violence and many other public health disparities, AI/AN women may suffer from an elevated risk of PTSD (Bassett, Buchwald, & Manson, 2014; Beals et al., 2013; Brockie, Dana-Sacco, Wallen, Wilcox, & Campbell, 2015; Chmielowska & Fuhr 2017; Hardy & Brown-Rice, 2016; Pearson, Smartlowit-Briggs, Belcourt, Bedard-Gilligan, & Kaysen, 2018). These experiences of violence and adverse mental health outcomes can also be compounded by other factors such as gender identity and sexual orientation (Parker, Duran, & Walters, 2017). Coordinated tribal, community, and federal efforts that are culturally appropriate are essential in responding to these epidemic rates of violence.

AI/AN persons and communities routinely experience barriers to accessing criminal justice and supportive services. The public safety challenges in Indian Country vary widely across states and regions—and from tribe to tribe—depending on jurisdictional issues, geography, tribal cultures, and myriad other factors. Due to early treaties and allotment policies, tribal, federal, state, and local lands may be intermingled in a “checkerboard” fashion, which complicates law enforcement and prosecution efforts (Adams, Minton, Motivans, Perry, & Strong, 2017; Deer, 2017; National Congress of American Indians, 2015). In many places, the local FBI field office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the federal courthouse are located many miles away from where tribal members reside, which only compounds the difficulties facing investigators and prosecutors, as well as victims, witnesses, and defendants involved in a federal prosecution (U.S. Department of Justice, 2017a).

Efforts to protect AI/AN victims are further complicated because many live in isolated rural communities with limited or no access to cellular/landline phone services, transportation, or emergency care; and limited criminal justice, legal assistance, and safe housing resources (Juraska, Wood, Giroux, & Wood, 2014). Getting to or receiving services can often be tremendously challenging. Frequently, incidents of domestic violence are underreported or undocumented because victims are not able to obtain assistance from police or medical professionals (Petillo, 2013). Less than one-third of Native American land is within a 60-minute driving distance of healthcare centers that offer SART/SANE services (Juraska et al., 2014).

In many parts of Indian Country, tribal courts are holding lawbreakers accountable, protecting victims, providing youth prevention and intervention programs, and dealing with precursors to crime such as alcohol and substance abuse. However, until the passage of VAWA 2013, tribal courts could not exercise jurisdiction over certain crimes committed by non-Indian domestic violence offenders on tribal land (Tribal Jurisdiction Over Crimes of Domestic Violence, 2013). The restriction resulted from the United States Supreme Court’s 1978 decision in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, which held that tribes had no criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants. VAWA 2013 recognized tribes’ inherent power to exercise “special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction” (SDVCJ) over both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners, or who violate certain protection orders, in Indian Country (Tribal Jurisdiction Over Crimes of Domestic Violence, 2013; Singh, 2014). The Act also specifies the rights that

a tribe must provide to defendants in SDVCJ cases (Tribal Jurisdiction Over Crimes of Domestic Violence, 2013; U.S. Department of Justice, 2017a).

The Department of Justice established an Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) to support SDVCJ implementation. The ITWG is a peer-to-peer learning forum addressing issues such as revising tribal codes, assembling more representative jury pools, detaining non-Indian offenders, and ensuring a victim-centered approach. As of March 2018, 45 tribes participate in the ITWG and 18 tribes are exercising SDVCJ. In total, those 18 tribes have made 143 arrests of 128 non-Indian offenders and achieved 74 convictions (National Congress of American Indians, 2018).

To address high rates of domestic/sexual violence, VAWA authorizes tribal grantees to develop and implement culturally appropriate responses to these crimes (Burnette, 2017; Burnette & Sanders, 2017; Deer, 2017; Matamonasa-Bennett, 2014; Petillo, 2013; Riley, 2017; Yuan, Belcourt-Dittloff, Schultz, Packard, & Duran, 2015). The Tribal Governments Program provides funds to tribes to create and administer governmental strategies to curtail domestic/sexual violence. This funding provides tribal governments the flexibility to develop solutions appropriate for their communities.

The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (T-SASP) provides funds to tribes to specifically address sexual assault. They do this through the development and implementation of direct intervention and related assistance (e.g., crisis intervention, cultural advocacy, hospital accompaniment, transportation, and criminal/civil justice advocacy) for AI/AN victims.

During each six-month reporting period, on average, T-SASP and Tribal Governments Program grantees served **6,915** victims.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **9,349** victims and **670** other family members who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native during each six-month reporting period.

## Immigrants and Refugees

Approximately 42 million people in the United States, or 13% of the population, are foreign-born (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). About half are women, and half are between the ages of 18 and 44. In FY 2016, the United States admitted nearly 85,000 refugees, a 22% increase from 2015. Most of these individuals were from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Burma, Iraq, and Somalia. During the same period, the United States granted asylum to over 20,000 individuals. Forty-nine percent of refugees and 46% of asylees were women (Mossaad & Baugh, 2018).

Refugees and asylum seekers are often victims of sexual violence, famine, economic displacement, and war in their home countries, and are unable or unwilling to repatriate to those countries because of fear of persecution or death based on their sex, race, ethnicity, religion, political or social affiliations, or other statuses (Castaneda et al., 2017; Cheung Chung et al., 2018; Long & Sabates-Wheeler, 2017; McQuaid, 2017; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2009; Parker, 2015; United Nations High



### NM • Grantee Perspective

Services for Spanish-speaking survivors of SA have been minimal and might not exist in Albuquerque without this funding. We have begun to provide more comprehensive services and [...] have a program for Spanish-speaking immigrant SA survivors backed by Spanish-speaking immigrant community members. This has not been done before in central New Mexico and this funding is a force behind our work. Services for Spanish-speaking sexual assault victims/survivors in Albuquerque and surrounding counties have grown immensely with this grant. Other than Casa Fortaleza, there were no therapy services in Spanish specifically geared to victims. Now Casa Fortaleza has a therapist and a clinical director providing therapy services, and has been able to provide therapy for even more survivors.

**ENLACE COMUNITARIO, NEW MEXICO (UNDERSERVED PROGRAM)**



### CA • Grantee Perspective

This grant has supported a substantial increase in crisis calls from sexual assault survivors to the 24-hour Center for Pacific Asian Family hotline. Comparing this reporting period (JJ17) to a comparable period two years earlier (JJ15), the volume of hotline calls from SA survivors has increased by more than 65%. CPAF's hotline not only provides services to survivors themselves, it also serves as an easy access point for service providers who desire to connect SA survivors with our services. This type of call also increased significantly between these two periods. This is important because of the culturally specific services that CPAF provides. For example, one SA survivor had called various hotlines in Los Angeles County but could not articulate her needs due to her limited English. Many agencies were English/Spanish speaking only and referred the survivor out due to their lack of capacity to serve Korean-speaking clients. She sought out CPAF because she wanted to be able to obtain counseling in Korean, the language in which she felt most comfortable expressing herself. Additionally, the survivor felt that another Korean speaker could understand her experiences and the weight of cultural influences.

**CENTER FOR THE PACIFIC ASIAN FAMILY, CALIFORNIA  
(CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**

Commissioner for Refugees, 2017). The violence they suffered may have been state-sponsored or organized by sectarian groups. Sexual violence can be used as a tool of political control, and women and girls are often targeted based on their particular roles in families, cultures, and communities (Kennedy, 2017). Increasingly, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are fleeing human trafficking; yet, the circumstances of migration often leave these same groups particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking (Le, Ryan, Bae, & Colburn, 2017; Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2017).

Immigrant and refugee victims of domestic/sexual violence face many barriers to safety including lack of English proficiency, limited knowledge of the support and intervention systems in place, impermanent legal status, and cultural barriers, such as pressure to keep silent to not bring shame upon their families or communities (Mindlin, Orloff, & Pochiraju, 2014; Nava et al., 2018; Silva-Martinez, 2016; Yoshihama et al., 2011; Zadnik, Sabina, & Cuevas, 2016). In addition, structural barriers to serving immigrant and refugee victims, such as social inequality, isolation, exclusion, financial instability, unemployment, and lack of available social services, can make it difficult for women to exit abusive relationships, and become and remain safe from violence (Gonçalves & Matos, 2016; Kapur et al., 2017; Kim & Sung, 2015; McDonald, 2018; O'Neal & Beckman, 2016; Parson, Escobar, Merced, & Trautwein, 2016; Pearce & Sokoloff, 2013; Reina & Lohman, 2015; Sellers, 2015; Zadnik, Sabina, & Cuevas, 2016).

Even where services are available, victims of domestic/sexual violence who have limited English proficiency face challenges (e.g., waits of hours, days, or even weeks) in their attempts to access services such as counseling, healthcare, housing, and education if no qualified interpreter is available and service providers do not speak their language (Alaggia, Maiter, & Jenney, 2017; Lee, Quinones, Ammar, & Orloff, 2013; Silva-Martinez, 2016). These victims may also encounter language barriers when seeking help from law enforcement. A national survey found that when immigrant victims called law enforcement, responding officers were able to identify the victims' language in fewer than half of the cases; in 30% of those cases, unqualified interpreters were used (Lee, Quinones, Ammar, & Orloff, 2013). Further, clients experienced bias when courts and law enforcement relied on inappropriate or unqualified interpreters who may intentionally or unintentionally misrepresent the victim's statements. In 24% of the more than 6,000 domestic violence cases in which an unqualified interpreter was used, the interpreter was a child or children of the victim or perpetrator; in 23% of these cases, it was a friend or neighbor; and in 8% of these cases, police spoke with the English-speaking perpetrators. Additionally, in sexual assault and domestic violence cases in which a victim called police but no police report was taken, the reason given more than 50% of the time was a language barrier.

Fear of deportation is a tremendous concern for some immigrant victims of domestic/sexual violence, and can result in victims not calling the police for help (Hass, Yang, Monahan, Orloff, & Anver, 2014; Messing, Becerra, Ward-Lasher, & Androff, 2015; O'Neal & Beckman, 2016; Sellers, 2015; Zadnik et al., 2016). Undocumented immigrant victims, in particular, may be afraid to report abuse to the police, believing it will result in their own deportation. The VAWA

self-petition and the U and T visas are remedies available to immigrant and refugee victims of domestic/sexual violence and other crimes to assist them in obtaining safety and escaping their abusers (Angel & Orloff, 2014; Orloff, Angel, & Robinson, 2014; U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2017; Warren, 2016).

The VAWA self-petition option, first enacted in VAWA 1994, is designed to prevent an abusive citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse from using the threat of not completing immigration documents to keep an abused immigrant spouse from reporting the abuse or leaving the abusive relationship (Procedure for Granting Immigrant Status, 2013; Violence Against Women Act of 1994, 2000; Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005). Through self-petitioning, a battered immigrant victim can independently seek legal immigration status for her/himself and her/his children without the assistance or knowledge of the abuser (Liebmann, 2012; Praeda, Olavarria, Kaguyutan, & Carra, 2014; U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2018). Final approval of the self-petition allows the victim to be granted legal permanent resident status and to apply for United States citizenship.

The T and U visas are vehicles of humanitarian relief for victims of certain serious crimes who lack lawful status in the United States and who are helpful, have been helpful, or are likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crimes (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2016). T visas may be granted to victims of severe forms of trafficking, and among the crimes for which a U visa may be granted are rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault; however, victims must have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the crime (Immigration and Nationality Act). T visa status allows recipients to stay in the United States for up to 3 years, and U visas permit up to 4 years; recipients may work during these times and apply for permanent resident status. A national survey of attorneys and advocates who assisted more than 4,000 immigrant victims with U visa applications found that domestic violence was the basis for nearly half of the U visas granted, sexual violence (from rape to sexual exploitation) for nearly one-third, and in slightly more than half of the cases, the recipients had experienced more than one crime (Orloff & Feldman, 2011).

In addition to funding staff with specialized expertise, VAWA provides funding to train professionals who respond to immigrant victims so they will be better informed about the particular needs of immigrant, refugee, sex-trafficked, and asylum-seeking victims and the challenges they face (Baobaid, Kovacs, MacDiarmid, & Tremblay, 2014; Konrad & Orloff, 2011; Sokoloff & Pearce, 2011). Funds are also used for culturally specific outreach to immigrant communities, to provide information about services, and in some cases to begin conversations within those communities about domestic/sexual violence.

*The VAWA self-petition requires that the victims prove that they are or were married to United States citizens or legal permanent residents; that their spouse subjected them to battery or extreme cruelty in the United States, that they were married in good faith, that they lived with their abusive spouses, and that they are persons of “good moral character.” A “prima facie determination” on the self-petition enables the applicant to receive public benefits while her/his case is pending. The final approval of the petition results in the granting of deferred-action status and the ability to apply for employment authorization as well as for legal permanent resident status, if the applicant is otherwise eligible.*

*Battered spouses of United States citizens who are not in deportation proceedings may concurrently file their VAWA self-petition (I-360), adjustment of status application (I-485) to become a legal permanent resident, and employment authorization application (I-765). Once s/he receives her/his employment authorization documents, the victim may legally work and obtain a driver’s license.*

*For more information, visit: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/battered-spouse-children-parents>.*



#### PA • Grantee Perspective

With CSSP funding, Friends of Farmworkers has been able to expand the Voces de Trabajadoras/ Voices of Women at Work from the Philadelphia area to the entire state. In order to support that expansion, we hired an attorney who grew up in the same immigrant community she now serves. This increased staffing has vastly expanded the organization’s capacity to provide legal services to immigrant survivors. We have been able to help additional survivors who had previously been on a waiting list for immigration legal services.

**FRIENDS OF FARMWORKERS, INC., PENNSYLVANIA  
(CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**



### GA • Grantee Perspective

We were able to hire a Bangla-speaking advocate, which has helped in dealing with several of our Bangla clients who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). For example, one of our Bangla clients was trying to acquire a temporary protection order and the court certified interpreter who was assigned to the client was not interpreting properly, giving false information, and imposing their personal advice. Our Bangla-speaking advocate was able to catch this and brought it to the lawyer's and court's attention, which then called for that particular interpreter to be dismissed and replaced.

**RAKSHA, INC., GEORGIA (CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**

LAV Program grantees assist immigrant victims in self-petitioning and seeking U visa status. During each six-month reporting period, on average, LAV Program grantees:

- Addressed **6,625** immigration issues on behalf of victims;
- Provided services to **9,124** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers; and
- Assisted **3,266** victims with U visa matters, **1,022** victims with VAWA self-petitions, and **145** victims with T visa matters.

Across the two-year period, LAV Program grantees:

- Reported a total of **1,045** administrative decisions on U visa matters, **604** administrative decisions on VAWA self-petitions, and **76** administrative decisions on T visa matters.

CSSP, SASP-CS, and Underserved Program grantees also provide assistance to victims on immigration issues. During each six-month reporting period, on average, these grantees:

- Addressed **490** immigration issues on behalf of victims;
- Provided services to **2,236** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers; and
- Reported assisting **177** victims with U visa matters, **96** with VAWA self-petitions, **62** with work authorizations, and **27** with T visa matters.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **16,577** victims who were immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers; and an average of **17,577** victims who had limited English proficiency during each six-month reporting period.

## People with Disabilities

*In the United States, approximately 56.7 million people, 18.7% of the population, live with one or more of a wide array of disabilities, including communicative disabilities such as hearing, sight, and speech challenges; mental disabilities such as intellectual and learning disabilities; and physical disabilities such as mobility challenges, musculoskeletal difficulties, and head and spinal trauma.*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment (Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 2008; Brault, 2012; Disability Rights Section, 2009). A growing body of research has documented that individuals who are Deaf and/or have a disability experience domestic/sexual violence at higher rates than their hearing counterparts and/or people without disabilities.

Further research is needed to accurately determine the prevalence of victimization among individuals who are Deaf and/or disabled, in part because these victims may be marginalized or overlooked by society, health care professionals, service providers, and researchers (Ballan, Freyer, Powledge, & Marti, 2016; Ballan & Freyer, 2017a; Mastrocinque et al., 2017; Plummer & Findley, 2012; Mikton, Maguire, & Shakespeare, 2014). Validated survey instruments may not be accessible, and health care professionals may not screen for domestic/sexual violence when working with Deaf patients or patients with disabilities. Further, people who are Deaf and/or disabled may

*People with intellectual disabilities are sexually assaulted at a rate seven times higher than that of people without disabilities, according to an analysis of Justice Department data (Shapiro, 2018).*

be inaccurately perceived as asexual and/or undesirable, and thus assumed unlikely to be victimized. However, numerous studies suggest those living with physical, mental, cognitive, or sensory impairments are more likely to experience domestic/sexual violence than those living without these impairments, due to their increased dependence and vulnerability; those with mental health impairments are at particular risk (Basile, Breiding, & Smith, 2016; Breiding & Armour, 2015; Brownridge et al., 2016; Hahn, McCormick, Silverman, Robinson, & Koenen, 2014; Hughes et al., 2012; Reid, 2018; Scherer, Snyder, & Fisher, 2016; Tutty et al., 2017). Emerging research suggests that men with disabilities experience abuse at similar rates to women with disabilities, and more often than non-disabled men, pointing toward the need for targeted intervention strategies (Mitra, Mouradian, Fox, & Pratt, 2016; Platt et al., 2017). Individuals with multiple disability types experience sexual assault rates more than 1.5 times those experienced by people with one disability (Harrell, 2017).

College students and young adults with disabilities are nearly twice as likely to have experienced psychological, sexual, stalking, or physical abuse as those without disabilities (Brown, Peña, & Rankin, 2017; Findley et al., 2016; Haydon, McRee, & Tucker Halpern, 2011; Reyns & Scherer, 2018; Scherer et al., 2016). Likewise, a growing body of research shows that Deaf college students may be twice as likely to experience physical assault, sexual coercion, or psychological aggression as hearing students (Anderson & Leigh, 2011; Porter & Williams, 2011). Other research indicates that the general population of persons with disabilities are two to five times more likely to experience domestic/sexual violence than persons without disabilities (Breiding & Armour, 2015; McGilloway, Smith, & Galvin, 2018). Deaf adults also suffer higher rates of domestic/sexual violence than the general population (Crowe, 2013; Pollard, Sutter, & Cerulli, 2014; Wakeland, Austen, & Rose, 2018). One national study found that children with learning disabilities were more than two and a half times more likely to be sexually abused, compared to children without learning disabilities (Helton, Gochez-Kerr, & Gruber, 2018). Young girls with intellectual disabilities are disproportionately represented among victims of sex trafficking, suggesting these children face unique risks for exploitation (Reid, 2018). Further research is needed to determine whether the severity and visibility of disability puts individuals at increased risk for abuse (Bones, 2013; Scherer et al., 2016).

The consequences of these high rates of domestic/sexual violence among individuals who are Deaf and/or disabled are severe. Persons with disabilities may face significant barriers to disclosing abuse, such as dependence on caregivers who may be perpetrating the violence, among other reasons. Victims with disabilities experience other forms of abuse such as destruction of their adaptive equipment and financial exploitation by their perpetrator, in addition to physical and sexual abuse (Curry et al., 2009; Shah, Tsitsou, & Woodin, 2016). When these victims disclose abuse, they may risk protective intervention that could result in losing their independence or being compelled to leave their own homes, particularly if the abuser is also their caregiver (Curry et al., 2011; Robinson et al., 2017). Further, victims may encounter barriers when attempting to obtain services, such as inaccessible shelters or lack of interpreting assistance.



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

As a result of the OWW funding, we have put together a dynamic team to serve the Deaf community. Our OWW funding allows us to reach out, connect with, educate, advocate for, and support our Deaf community on issues of violence and violence prevention. Our team is able to help address the domestic violence (which Deaf people experience at rates 1.5 times higher than hearing people) and sexual assault (which Deaf people experience at rates 3.8 times higher than hearing people) issues our survivors face. Without the OWW funds, we would not be able to provide the critical services Deaf survivors need to begin or continue their respective healing journeys—whether they receive one-one-one counseling, advocacy, or join our community education programs. Since there are fewer than 20 Deaf DV/SA programs in the United States, there is a high demand for culturally competent services.

**ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR ABUSED DEAF VICTIMS, NEW YORK (UNDERSERVED PROGRAM)**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

This grant has made it possible for Willow Domestic Violence Center, IGNITE, and RESTORE to join together in a collaborative effort to improve our collective capacity to serve Deaf and hard of hearing survivors in Monroe County. All partner agencies have improved their cultural competency, which is significant as both Willow and RESTORE had very limited experience serving Deaf and hard of hearing survivors. Our work together on the Needs Assessment has led to many challenging discussions which ultimately proved to be a learning opportunity for all partner agencies. After receiving this grant, Willow has experienced an increase in Deaf survivors seeking services and Willow was able to effectively accommodate these survivors. This grant also made it possible for IGNITE to more effectively lean on the partner agencies to supplement its resources and expand its own capability to serve the Deaf community.

#### ALTERNATIVES FOR BATTERED WOMEN, NEW YORK (DISABILITY PROGRAM)

In order to serve Deaf and/or disabled persons most effectively, cross-training between disability services and victim services organizations must occur. Because victims with disabilities come from various cultural, racial, socio-economic, geographic, and ethnic populations, and have different disabilities, it is critical that victim services, law enforcement agencies, and other first responders tailor their programs to appropriately respond to the full spectrum of assistance victims need (Ballan et al., 2014; Ballan & Freyer, 2017b; Khemka & Hickson, 2017; Lund, Nelson, & Johnson, 2017; Nelson & Lund, 2017). Recent evidence suggests that sexual assault kits from physically or mentally impaired victims are less likely to be submitted for testing than those from crimes in which the victim is not impaired (Valentine et al., 2016).

VAWA funds the Disability Program to train criminal justice professionals, court personnel, and victim services providers to respond effectively to Deaf and/or disabled victims. Disability Program grantees have worked diligently to improve the criminal justice response and services available to these victims, and to strengthen collaboration with community agencies.

Across the two-year reporting period, Disability Program grantees:

- Trained **10,205** people (including health and mental health care providers, government agency staff, domestic violence service providers, disabilities organizations staff, law enforcement personnel, and residential, institutional, and independent-living staff) to provide more effective services to victims with disabilities; and
- Provided **1,353** technical assistance activities, which included **1,219** consultations and **134** site visits.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **8,780** Deaf and/or disabled victims during each six-month reporting period.

### People Victimized in Later Life/Elder Abuse

In 2016, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a record high number (nearly 40.3 million) and percentage (8%) of people aged 65 or older (Population Division, 2017). By 2030, one in five Americans, or 73 million people, are expected to be over 65; approximately 40 million of them will be women (Vespa, Armstrong, & Medina, 2018).

An aging population becomes increasingly reliant on others for day-to-day living; this dependency can increase older persons' vulnerability to abuse. Many older women are retired, receiving public assistance and/or Social Security benefits, and are dependent upon family members for their care; these circumstances increase perpetrators' ability to wield control over the lives of their victims (Burnes, Pillemer, & Lachs, 2017; Fileborn, 2017; Lundy & Grossman, 2009; Peterson et al., 2014; Weeks & Leblanc, 2011). Those in long-standing relationships with few social supports are more likely to report experiencing some form of abuse, as they may perceive their options as limited (Acierno et al., 2010; Lachs & Berman, 2011; Policastro & Finn, 2015). Non-physical intimate partner abuse persists into later life, and may become more



### PA • Grantee Perspective

This grant has allowed us to collaborate with rape crisis centers and allied professionals to address unserved and underserved populations, such as people with disabilities and older adults. This grant has funded eight regional trainings for support coordinators who respond to sexual violence in the lives of people with disabilities. This has resulted in a systematic change in the response to sexual abuse for those who work in the field.

#### PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST RAPE (STATE COALITIONS PROGRAM)



severe as physical violence decreases, yet this type of harm is often overlooked (Roberto, McPherson, & Brossoie, 2013). Older women are frequently and inaccurately perceived as asexual and undesirable, and assumed to be unlikely targets of sexual violence, but the incidence of victimization among this population shows otherwise (Fileborn, 2017).

In a nationally representative study, one in ten adults aged 60 or older experienced emotional, physical, or sexual mistreatment or potential neglect in the past year (Acierno et al., 2010). Another study of women aged 55 and older found that nearly half of their sample experienced some type of physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, and/or financial abuse since turning 55 (Fisher, Zink, & Regan, 2011). Further, 14% of women over 65 report having been physically or sexually assaulted, or both, by intimate partners during their lifetime, and many of them exhibit symptoms of PTSD, depression, and anxiety even decades after the trauma (Cook, Pilver, Dinnen, Schnurr, & Hoff, 2013; Eaton et al., 2016). A better understanding of the scope of elder abuse, and effective responses to the specific needs of these victims, are critical concerns for both service providers and policy makers (Dong, 2015). Recently, researchers have pointed to the need for more standardization of terms in order to develop a more accurate understanding of the prevalence of elder abuse in all its forms (Hall, Karch, & Crosby, 2016; Yon, Mikton, Gassoumis, & Wilber, 2017). Emerging research is illuminating the ways in which multiple forms of violence against older adults often occur in tandem, or alternatively, one form of violence can trigger a cascade of other abuses (Teaster, 2017). In addition, practitioners and scholars are recognizing the need for more specific knowledge on the ways elder abuse plays out in underserved populations, calling for investigations that go beyond culture and consider geography, socioeconomic status, and access to resources (Dong, 2017; Jervis et al., 2016).

Intimate partner violence among older victims is often overlooked or misidentified. Confusion can arise about appropriate responses and services; historically, neither the domestic/sexual violence services nor the adult protective services (APS) fields have adequately served older victims (Cramer & Brady, 2013; Crockett, Brandt, & Dabby, 2015). Only a small percentage of elder abuse is reported to authorities (Acierno et al., 2010; Lachs & Berman, 2011). In some cases, victims may be unwilling to take legal action against their abusers due to the absence of other close relationships in their lives (Rosen et al., 2016). This pattern points to the need for intervention strategies that involve maintaining a relationship with the abuser while at the same time ensuring the safety of the elder victim. A recent study also found significant variation in help-seeking by victims depending on what kind of abuse they were experiencing, their relationship to the perpetrator, health status, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity (Burnes, Rizzo, Gorroochurn, Pollack, & Lachs, 2016).

When reported, elder abuse is primarily the responsibility of APS agencies, which investigate, prosecute, and protect against abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults (Kilbane & Spira, 2018). Historically, these agencies have focused on services associated with family, caregiver, and financial abuse—not domestic/sexual abuse or stalking. Domestic violence



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Elder Grants funding has allowed us to offer training to more than 100 law enforcement officers and professionals across disciplines, which hasn't been done in such a formalized way in the past. We have learned that in the past six months there has been a 46% increase in call volume to APS, which we can only assume is directly related to the heightened awareness among law enforcement and other service professionals about the services and resources available to them in elder abuse cases.

SENIOR SERVICE CENTER OF THE ALBANY AREA, NEW YORK (ABUSE IN LATER LIFE PROGRAM)

services, by comparison, specifically address abuse related to domestic violence, intimate partner sexual assault, and/or stalking. These organizations typically promote agency and empowerment, and define perpetrators primarily as intimate partners. Because of this, they may struggle to respond to the needs of older adults who may need particular assistance or may be victimized by a relative or caregiver. Many sexual assault programs are similarly issue-specific. It is thus critical that domestic violence and sexual assault agencies build capacity to respond to older victims' specific needs and circumstances, and develop effective collaborations with adult protective services and others supporting older adults (Bows, 2017, 2018; Brossoie & Roberto, 2015; James, Dickinson, & Struthers, 2015). Further, recent studies have pointed toward the need to adapt lethality screenings by age since elder perpetrators of intimate partner homicide are more likely to express suicidality, less likely to be estranged, and less likely to have known histories of partner violence (Salari & Maxwell, 2016; Salari & Sillito, 2016). Emerging research indicates that murder-suicide rates may be on the rise in elderly populations. Like in the general population, the vast majority of murder-suicide victims in this age category are women killed by intimate partners (Langley, 2015).

The Abuse in Later Life Program addresses these specific needs of older victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including domestic/sexual violence. Grantees collaborate with numerous local professionals and agencies to provide services to victims, and provide training on issues specific to the victimization of older adults. Included in these collaborations are criminal justice personnel (i.e., law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other court staff); adult protective services; community-based elder services; and domestic violence and sexual assault victim service organizations.

In addition to Abuse in Later Life Program grantees, grantees that provide services to victims (with the exception of children and youth-focused grantees), also provide services to older victims, and engage in other funded activities to improve the response to these victims.

Across the two-year reporting period, Abuse in Later Life Program grantees:

- Used grant funds to train **6,274** individuals, including **3,155** law enforcement officers and **182** prosecutors; and
- Provided services to an average of **826** victims aged 50 or older during each six-month reporting period.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees served an average of **4,630** victims aged 60 or older during each six-month reporting period.

## Children and Youth

Each year, millions of children and adolescents are exposed to and/or directly victimized by domestic/sexual violence, although few of these occurrences are reported to authorities (Merrick, Basile, Zhang, Smith, & Kresnow, 2018; Sumner et al., 2015). The economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States is estimated at approximately \$9.3 billion (Letourneau et al.,

2018). These experiences can significantly damage a child's physical, mental, and emotional health, and the harmful effects of these may last well into adulthood.

In a nationally representative study of children exposed to violence, more than one-third (37.3%) of youth respondents (aged 17 and under) experienced a physical assault and 5.0% experienced sexual assault or abuse in the past year (Finkelhor, Turner, Shattuck, & Hamby, 2015). Nearly one-fifth (19.5%) of respondents witnessed family violence (psychological, emotional, and/or physical) in their lifetime. A recent study found that 31% of firearm homicides of children age zero to 12 were related to incidents of intimate partner violence (Fowler et al., 2017). Other studies indicate that an estimated one in ten adults report being sexually abused as children and that these child victims are more likely to experience other forms of child abuse, maltreatment, and neglect; additionally, girls are more likely than boys to experience sexual abuse (Perez-Fuentes et al., 2013; Carlson, Grassley, Reis, & Davis, 2015). However, the incidence of children exposed to or experiencing violence is much higher than the rates of these crimes reported to authorities (Health Resources & Services Administration and Maternal & Child Health Bureau, 2015).

Children who are exposed to violence, whether as witnesses or child victims, can suffer a wide variety of immediate and long-term health effects, including PTSD (Health Resources & Services Administration and Maternal & Child Health Bureau, 2015; Johnson et al., 2017; Koolick et al., 2016; Listenbee et al., 2012; Menna, Pasiak, Johnson, & Romanchych, 2015; Vu, Jouriles, McDonald, & Rosenfield, 2016). The adverse health impacts of these crimes on children can have severe negative consequences that may extend well beyond childhood and adolescence (Montalvo-Liendo et al., 2015). Further research is needed on how the effects of violence that children endure or witness vary across race, ethnicity, culture, and socioeconomic status (Etherington & Baker, 2018; Ragavan, Fikre, Millner, & Bair-Merritt, 2018). Children may internalize their experiences by becoming withdrawn, anxious, fearful, or depressed; developing attachment disorders; or having nightmares or disturbances in sleep (Hebert, Langevin, & Oussaid, 2018; Menna et al., 2015; Sousa et al., 2011; Wamser-Nanney & Chesher, 2018). They may externalize their feelings by exhibiting social, behavioral, and cognitive challenges or conditions, such as acting out, displaying aggressive or antisocial behavior, having difficulty focusing in school, or engaging in high-risk or delinquent behavior (Cuevas, Finkelhor, Shattuck, Turner, & Hamby, 2013; Fong, Hawes, & Allen, 2017; Jones et al., 2013; Jouriles, McDonald, Vu, & Sargent, 2016; King & Mrug, 2018; Messing, Ward-Lasher, et al., 2015; Renner & Boel-Studt, 2017; Vachon, Krueger, Rogosch, & Cicchetti, 2015). The toll of early exposure to violence persists into adulthood (Balsam, Lehavot, & Beadnell, 2011; Perez-Fuentes et al., 2013; Simmel, Postmus, & Lee, 2016; Talmon & Ginzburg, 2018). Adults who were victimized as children show higher incidences of substance abuse and mental health problems, such as bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, and suicidality. Furthermore, there is evidence that childhood exposure to domestic violence is associated with domestic violence perpetration in adulthood (Kimber, Adham, Gill, McTavish, & MacMillan, 2018).



#### MI • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving CSSP funding, Centro Multicultural La Familia was not able to contract/hire appropriate staff to serve Spanish-speaking victims. Since Centro Multicultural La Familia received OWW funding, a program coordinator, a part-time Family Therapist, a part-time transporter/child care person, and a part-time case manager were hired and have been able to serve 48 victims and ten children just in the last six months. These survivors have not only received comprehensive services through this program, but also have been connected to other services within the agency. Providing services to children who witness violence has been a blessing that will allow us to prevent future cycles of violence.

**CENTRO MULTICULTURAL LA FAMILIA, MICHIGAN  
(CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**



### NC • Grantee Perspective

CEV program funding has allowed us to offer evidence-based counseling, which has resulted in bridging the gap in services for children in need who were waiting for evaluation by the managed care mental health program. In some cases, it closed the six-week evaluation wait-list period. It has also allowed children and youth in need of extended or multiple treatment options the ability to receive these treatments, regardless of Medicaid or health insurance status. CEV program funding has also allowed the integration of adjunctive therapies to strengthen the treatment modalities and to reach children and youth who are resistant or highly traumatized clients.

**THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLIANCE, NORTH CAROLINA (CONSOLIDATED YOUTH PROGRAM)**



### TX • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving CEV funding, we were not able to conduct any prevention programming. We are now able to engage children and youth in prevention from PreK–12th grade and offer opportunities during the school day (e.g., social-emotional skills groups and safe dating workshops), or through after-school programs and paid summer youth leadership programs. These programs engage youth as creative leaders and empower them to find their own voice to rally their peers around ending harassment and abuse.

**THE SAFE ALLIANCE, TEXAS (CONSOLIDATED YOUTH PROGRAM)**

Childhood exposure to domestic/sexual violence increases the risk of witnessing, experiencing, or perpetrating other forms of violence (e.g., sibling abuse, property crime, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence) in adolescence and adulthood (Foshee et al., 2016; Hamby, Finkelhor, Turner, & Ormrod, 2011; Jouriles et al., 2012; Listenbee et al., 2012; McTavish, MacGregor, Wathen, & MacMillan, 2016; Narayan, Englund, Carlson, & Egeland, 2014; Narayan, Labella, Englund, Carlson, & Egeland, 2017; Reidy et al., 2016; Wood & Sommers, 2011). Child sexual abuse victims are significantly more likely than their non-abused counterparts to report being sexually assaulted as adults (Balsam et al., 2011; Ports, Ford, & Merrick, 2016). A recent study found that nearly half of all victims of child sexual abuse will be sexually revictimized later in life (Walker, Freud, Ellis, Fraine, & Wilson, 2017). Women who were physically or sexually abused and/or witnessed domestic violence as children are more likely than non-exposed women to report victimization by an intimate partner later in life (Young-Wolff et al., 2013; Zamir & Lavee, 2015). Men exposed to violence as children are significantly more likely than non-exposed men to report perpetrating dating or domestic violence as adults (Eriksson & Mazerolle, 2015; Glowacz, Goblet, & Courtain, 2018). Emerging research indicates that emotional abuse also has a significant impact on the likelihood of being victimized by, and perpetrating, intimate partner violence (Glowacz et al., 2018; Richards, Tillyer, & Wright, 2017; Turner, Taillieu, Cheung, & Afifi, 2017).

Holistic, comprehensive services for child victims, and violence prevention and education programs that focus on building healthy relationship skills, are critical for reducing re-victimization rates (Finkelhor, Vanderminden, Turner, Shattuck, & Hamby, 2014; Howell, Barnes, Miller, & Graham-Bermann, 2016; Pittenger, Huit, & Hansen, 2016; Schultz et al., 2017; Turanovic & Pratt, 2015). Early identification and intervention by health care providers and mental health professionals can support families in breaking intergenerational cycles of violence (Cohodes, Hagan, Narayan, & Lieberman, 2016; Department of Reproductive Health and Research, 2017; McFarlane et al., 2017; Montalvo-Liendo et al., 2015; Turner, Hester, et al., 2017). VAWA-funded grant programs provide services to child and adolescent primary victims of sexual assault, in addition to serving children of victims of domestic/sexual violence. Several programs also provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and visitation services for children and adolescents affected by violence in their homes.

During each six-month reporting period, on average:

- Consolidated Youth, Justice For Families, Rural, SASP–CS, STEP, Supervised Visitation, Transitional Housing, Tribal Governments, and T–SASP Program grantees provided services to **9,032** children (infancy to age 12);

- Grantees from all programs that serve victims and their families provided services to **5,042** adolescents (ages 13 to 17);<sup>xvii</sup> and
- Rural Program grantees provided services to **719** victims of child sexual abuse.<sup>xviii</sup>

## Victims and Families Living in Rural Areas

As of the 2010 Census, nearly 20%, or one in five Americans, lived in rural areas (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). Rural victims seeking to escape violence face unique challenges and barriers, such as geographic isolation, limited infrastructure and available services, few material resources, strong social and cultural pressures, and lack of anonymity and security when seeking shelter and services (Davidov et al., 2017; Dudgeon & Evanson, 2014; Farber & Miller-Cribbs, 2014; Gustafsson, Cox, & Family Life Project Key Investigators, 2016; Johnson & Hiller, 2016; Lynch & Logan, 2017; Peek-Asa et al., 2011; Rennison, DeKeseredy, & Dragiewicz, 2013; Roush & Kurth, 2016). Rural victims of violence may have worse psychosocial and physical health outcomes than their urban counterparts, due to these challenges (Edwards, 2015; Farber & Miller-Cribbs, 2014; Martz, Jameson, & Page, 2016; Nemeth, Bonomi, Lu, Lomax, & Wewers, 2016; Reckdenwald, Yohros, & Szalewski, 2018; Strand & Storey, 2018; Walker & Logan, 2018). This includes higher rates of intimate partner homicide, and in particular, femicide.

Rural victims of domestic/sexual violence often face geographic challenges in reaching service providers. They may need to travel great distances, and there may be limited public transportation services in their communities. In one study, over 25% of women in small rural and isolated areas lived more than 40 miles from the closest service provider, compared to less than 1% of women in urban settings (Peek-Asa et al., 2011).

Beyond geographic obstacles, victims residing in rural areas may face a complex interweaving of cultural, psychological, emotional, and systemic barriers to resources. Small, isolated communities may prioritize family privacy, traditional gender roles, and keeping families intact, even when violence presents a potentially fatal threat (DeKeseredy, Hall-Sanchez, Dragiewicz, & Rennison, 2016; Shepard & Hagemester, 2013). These effects can be compounded for victims who already face specific barriers to services, including disabled, LGBTQ, impoverished, elder, and minority victims (Harley & Teaster, 2018). Features of rural culture can reinforce the normative belief that one should not report domestic/sexual violence because those are private matters (Burnett et al., 2016; Johnson, McGrath, & Miller, 2014). Further, victims might be reluctant to report domestic/sexual violence in rural communities because there are simply practical barriers to maintaining confidentiality and

<sup>xvii</sup> Total does not include non-custodial or custodial adolescent parents receiving supervised visitation services from Justice for Families, Supervised Visitation or Tribal Governments grantees. However, it does include children and adolescents served by these three grant programs. In addition, Abuse in Later Life grantees only serve victims aged 50 years and older.

<sup>xviii</sup> Depending upon the age at which a victim seeks services, this number could include both child and adult victims of child sexual abuse.



### MT • Grantee Perspective

Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse (CNADA) is located in a remote and rural area. Because so many people find themselves permanently displaced due to domestic violence or sexual assault, they were left with only two options prior to CNADA securing a Transitional Housing grant: relocate to another area where they had family or friends, or travel nearly 150 miles to the closest homeless shelter, uprooting their children in doing so. Many chose to return to their abuser rather than leaving town. With the transitional housing program, we are now able to offer, through rental vouchers, a home survivors can call their own, while also feeling safe from abuse or the threat of abuse due to the support they receive from the program.

**CUSTER NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE, INC., MONTANA (TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM)**



### AK • Grantee Perspective

Our state is extremely vast, yet has a low population, meaning that most of our member programs are in hubs around our state with very large service areas. This funding allows us to travel to them in person to provide regionally relevant training and technical assistance. It also allows us to pay for them to come in to Anchorage for in-person trainings that not only disseminate valuable information, but connect advocates with others doing similar work in very isolating conditions around our state.

**ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT (STATE COALITIONS PROGRAM)**

anonymity (Annan, 2011; Fitzsimons, Hagemeister, & Braun, 2011; Strand & Storey, 2018).

Rural criminal justice systems may struggle to respond to victims of domestic/sexual violence due to limited staff and resources. The degree to which perpetrators and victims are “known,” or their political and social standing in the community, may also influence the criminal justice system’s response (Anderson, Renner, & Bloom, 2014; Fitzsimons et al., 2011; Hall-Sanchez, 2016). Relationships between victims and advocates, as well as their health care providers, may be affected by lack of privacy, geographic distance, and limited referrals, along with community and social pressure to avoid criminal justice engagement (Johnson et al., 2014; McCall-Hosenfeld, Weisman, Perry, Hillemeier, & Chuang, 2014; Wilson et al., 2016).

To address these barriers and respond to rural victims of domestic/sexual violence, VAWA funds the Rural Program. During each six-month reporting period, on average, Rural Program grantees provided services to **13,832** victims.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees provided services to an average of **28,232** victims who lived in rural areas (including reservations and Indian Country) during each six-month reporting period.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Victims

Research has documented the prevalence of domestic/sexual violence among LGBTQ victims, which appears to be as high, or higher than, rates of violence among heterosexual victims (Blondeel et al., 2018; Dank, Lachman, Zweig, & Yahner, 2014; Edwards, Sylaska, & Neal, 2015; Gillum, 2016; Langenderfer-Magruder et al., 2016; Longobardi & Badenes-Ribera, 2017; Martin-Storey & Fromme, 2017; Martin-Storey et al., 2018; Messinger, 2011; Snyder, Scherer, & Fisher, 2018; Valentine et al., 2017). The NISVS found that 44% of lesbian women and 61% of bisexual women, compared to 35% of heterosexual women, have encountered domestic/sexual violence (Walters, Chen, & Breiding, 2013). The same survey found that 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men suffer these crimes, compared to 29% of heterosexual men. In addition, transgender individuals experience disproportionately higher rates of violence, including sexual and domestic violence (Griner et al., 2017; Langenderfer-Magruder et al., 2016; Waters, 2017). Despite these high rates of violence, the criminal, legal, and community responses to LGBTQ victims have been at best limited, and at worst, harmful and destructive.

LGBTQ victims may be hesitant to report crimes due to fear of disclosure, discrimination, and/or retribution, coupled with a historical distrust of, and mistreatment by, the criminal justice and legal systems (Goodmark, 2013; Guadalupe-Diaz & Jasinski, 2016; Guadalupe-Diaz & Yglesias, 2013; Russell, 2017; Ritchie & Jones-Brown, 2017; Serpe & Nadal, 2017; Waters, 2017). LGBTQ individuals, and in particular, lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons of color and transgender persons of all races, may be reluctant to seek help from the legal



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Our work continues to have a special focus on working with transgender and gender non-conforming communities, who face increased risk of IPV/SV and intersecting forms of violence. Underserved Program funding allows the CCR team to provide LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors immediate comprehensive services tailored to meet their unique needs. Finally, Underserved Program funding has allowed the Anti-Violence Project to be a more comprehensive training and technical assistance resource to our local NYC community. We have more resources to share and more support to provide to truly advance our goal of enhancing and expanding access for survivors of IPV, across the spectrum of gender identity and sexual orientation, to culturally competent safety, support, and services that are welcoming and affirming of their intersecting identities.

**NEW YORK CITY GAY AND LESBIAN ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT, NEW YORK (UNDERSERVED PROGRAM)**

system for fear of biases compromising the quality and utility of the system's response. In turn, service providers may be unprepared to offer sensitive and appropriate advocacy and shelter to LGBTQ victims of violence (Calton, Cattaneo, & Gebhard, 2016).

Emerging research is providing evidence as to how to best serve LGBTQ victims. This body of work is beginning to document the contexts and consequences of acts and patterns of violence against LGBTQ people, the array of services and advocacy they require, the particular obstacles they encounter when seeking help and protection, the quality of justice they receive, the strength of their available support networks, and the prevention strategies that can avert violence against them (Conron, Brewer, & McCauley, 2017; Edwards et al., 2015; Messing, Thomas, Ward-Lasher, & Brewer, 2018; Messinger, 2017; Steele, Everett, & Hughes, 2016).

In 2013, VAWA was amended to explicitly require that OVW grantees may not discriminate against victims of violence based on actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013). In addition, VAWA 2013 identified LGBTQ victims as an underserved population. These historic provisions mark the first ever explicit protections from discrimination for LGBTQ people appearing within a federal funding statute, and can serve as guidelines for other federal agencies seeking to implement non-discrimination provisions. Because many criminal justice agencies, victim services, and advocacy programs nationwide are funded by VAWA, these nondiscrimination directives herald reduced bias against LGBTQ victims who seek to become and remain safe from violence.



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

In March 2017, the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) initiated its Economic Justice Program to assist Latinx immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in navigating systems necessary to live independently. For the first time, we were able to dedicate our efforts to develop and implement a set of services that support our clients' independence. We know that in order to live a life free of violence, survivors need a strong support system. Our economic justice program offers alternatives to earn an income in a collective way. We offer workshops about housing searches, tenants' rights, taxes and credit, and immigration storytelling. The Economic Justice Program will ensure all participants and staff participate in VIP's empowerment programs, and will receive necessary education/information and tools that will enhance their self-sufficiency, increase their knowledge of their rights, and conduct ongoing evaluation of programmatic goals.

**VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM, INC., NEW YORK  
(CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**

For more information about the VAWA 2013 nondiscrimination provision, visit:

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/docs/faqs-ngc-vawa.pdf>

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# Community Education, Awareness, and Prevention

Key elements of an effective response to domestic/sexual violence are criminal justice and victim services interventions, training for professionals, and strong coordinated community responses, whereby justice system professionals, victim services providers, and others work together to best serve victims and hold offenders accountable. To truly end these crimes, these efforts must be accompanied by broad public education and awareness to help build communities' capacity for prevention.

By presenting violence as a public health issue that is relevant to everyone, and not just victims, grantees work to change both collective social norms and individual behavior and perceptions (Ford et al., 2017; McMahon & Baker, 2011; Tabachnick & McCartan, 2017; Yoshihama, Ramakrishnan, Hammock, & Khalil, 2012). Depending upon the needs and resources of specific communities, grantees' efforts might range from posting materials on bulletin boards in rural settings to large social media campaigns in major metropolitan areas.

Recent research shows that violence prevention education, such as bystander intervention programs, can be effective in changing behavior and reducing dating violence (Coker et al., 2017, 2016; DeGue et al., 2014; Jouriles, Krauss, Vu, Banyard, & McDonald, 2018; Taylor, Stein, Mumford, & Woods, 2013; Zapp, Buelow, Soutiea, Berkowitz, & DeJong, 2018). In some cases, these results have been shown to last several years after program delivery (Coker et al., 2017; Foshee et al., 2004). Emerging research suggests that sexual assault risk reduction and resistance programs are particularly effective in reducing rates of sexual violence, especially when combined with efforts directed toward perpetrators and broader social and structural change (Orchowski & Gidycz, 2018). Comprehensive programs that promote healthy relationships among adolescents employ school-based strategies, parent programs, teacher training, neighborhood organizations, and social media campaigns to reinforce their messages (Jaime et al., 2018; Tharp, Simon, & Saul, 2012). Research shows that children and adolescents are more likely to disclose abuse and bullying; recognize and stop abusive behavior in themselves and others; and engage in positive bystander and self-protective behavior when they receive school-based curricula focusing on building healthy relationships (Lester, Lawrence, & Ward, 2017; Miller et al., 2013; Morrison et al., 2017; Walsh, Zwi, Woolfenden, & Shlonsky, 2018). This form of prevention education is particularly effective when it includes multiple lessons and parental involvement (Finkelhor et al., 2014; Letourneau, Schaeffer, Bradshaw, & Feder, 2017; Lesneskie & Block, 2016). College students who engage in violence prevention as bystanders report feeling greater responsibility for ending interpersonal violence and more confidence as bystanders; they



## WA • Grantee Perspective

Pilot partners received OWW-approved training materials for confidentiality, accommodation, trauma-informed care provision, navigating advocacy in long-term care, and sexual assault response not previously available. Community members learned about the grant program and the need for advocacy for sexual assault survivors in long-term care. MOU partners strengthened their understanding about guardianship, supported decision-making, and consent. These things will all directly influence the capacity to serve survivors with disabilities and would not have happened were it not for the OWW grant.

**DISABILITY RIGHTS WASHINGTON (DISABILITY PROGRAM)**



## MA • Grantee Perspective

With these resources, we have been able to continue providing training and education. We are able to participate in community events that give a public voice to an otherwise hidden culture of domestic and sexual violence. We continue our work with Northeastern University Law School's programs for student attorneys, bringing young men and women into the inner city courts. Most of them know absolutely nothing about the community they endeavor to serve. The CSSP grant is making training possible for them. Faith leaders are being trained and educated, along with their congregations, so that victims and survivors have both their safety and their faith. The CSSP grant is enlarging the capacity of all of the partner agencies to do more, and provide more in the way of culturally specific resources and referrals. It is enabling us to learn from each other, and to widen the circle that we call a coordinated community response.

**THE URBAN LEAGUE OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS (CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES PROGRAM)**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Government Program funding has allowed us to increase our outreach and education activities to Native and non-Native people in our area. It has allowed us to expand our Talking Circle group to the Crow Wing County Jail where we are reaching more women and building more trust among both the women and the local criminal justice system. These groups allow us to see the full extent of the damage done by domestic and sexual violence and by human trafficking. Although we have known this anecdotally, the funding has allowed us to begin tracking this information in concrete numbers. Once the full extent is understood we can form better long-term care plans to support these women in making positive lifestyle changes that ensure their safety and that of their children. This grant has further allowed us to reach out and educate teen girls about safe dating and healthy relationships. By building relationships with these young women, we become a trusted source of information and resources as they grow into adulthood and begin making adult decisions.

**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE (TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM)**

perceive greater benefits of stepping in to help, and have a greater awareness or knowledge of sexual and partner abuse (Exner-Cortens & Cummings, 2017; Hoxmeier, McMahon, & O'Connor, 2017; Labhardt, Holdsworth, Brown, & Howat, 2017; Moynihan et al., 2015).

Some of the most promising practices in primary prevention of these crimes are those directed at engaging men and boys (Grimmett, Conley, Foster, & Clark, 2018; Jewkes, Flood, & Lang, 2015; Tolman, Walsh, & Nieves, 2017). These approaches may include educational programs, social marketing campaigns, and the fostering of men's commitment as activists and advocates for women. In recognition of the crucial role men and boys can play in the effort to prevent domestic/sexual violence, OVV administers the Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies.<sup>xix</sup> This program supports a comprehensive focus on youth and children exposed to violence; and men as leaders and role models.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- Engaging Men and Youth and Consolidated Youth Program grantees provided **233** ongoing educational and mentoring activities that reached **9,342** youth (**6,743** of whom were students) and **6,928** other community members.

Overall, VAWA-funded grantees conducted **20,160** educational and public awareness programs and events that reached **668,132** students and **540,591** other community members.<sup>xx</sup>

<sup>xix</sup> VAWA 2013 authorized the Creating Hope Through Outreach, Options, Services, and Education for Children and Youth (CHOOSE) and Saving Money and Reducing Tragedies through Prevention (SMART) Programs, which consolidated formerly authorized youth-focused programs. However, CHOOSE and SMART have never received appropriations. Instead, since FY 2012, Congress has appropriated funds for a Consolidated Youth Program, which incorporates the purposes of four youth-focused programs. Therefore, OVV continues to administer the Consolidated Youth Program.

<sup>xx</sup> Not included in this figure are media campaigns and awareness events convened by State Coalitions and Tribal Governments Program grantees.

# Training and Technical Assistance

Nearly all VAWA-funded grant programs provide training and expert technical assistance to a wide variety of professionals on a broad range of topics related to domestic/sexual violence. In the course of seeking services, victims may interact with advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, health and mental health professionals, campus personnel, educators, and government agency staff. To best serve victims of domestic/sexual violence, professionals must understand the causes, circumstances, and consequences of violence, as well as best practices to address violence and victimization. With this foundation, they can effectively respond to victims, prevent further harm, avoid unintended negative consequences, and hold offenders accountable. Grantees prioritize training law enforcement, court personnel, health care providers, and advocates, who are often first responders to victims, meaning they may be the first people that victims disclose their victimization to or ask for help.

Research shows that law enforcement were most likely to appropriately arrest perpetrators when they received training on and followed these best practices: conducting investigations in person, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to the violence, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and advocacy services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe (Hamby et al., 2015). Without proper training, an officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor in a domestic violence situation, may unknowingly minimize a victim's trauma, may fail to collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. Moreover, if an officer sides with an abuser or is otherwise insensitive to the victim's needs, the victim may not report future assaults.

Health care providers can play a critical role in supporting their patients who are victims of domestic/sexual violence, but many of these providers do not ask about violence routinely in their practice due to lack of time, training, or their personal beliefs (Colarossi, Breitbart, & Betancourt, 2010; Parish et al., 2018; Sutherland & Hutchinson, 2018). When health care providers ask questions about interpersonal violence during confidential, routine medical examinations, they provide opportunities for victims to disclose abuse and receive appropriate services and referrals (Pagels et al., 2015). Research shows that health care providers who receive training on screening for and identifying victims of domestic violence improve their practice, professional attitudes, and comfort in asking about violence in the patient's home (Alvarez, Fedock, Grace, & Campbell, 2017; Ambuel et al., 2013; Zachor, Chang, Zelazny, Jones, & Miller, 2018). Specialized training for nurses and other medical forensic professionals who examine and treat victims of sexual assault is essential to ensure proper collection and storage of forensic evidence; provision of information and treatment on related medical issues and prophylactic care; coordination with advocates to ensure that crisis intervention, advocacy, and support services are offered before, during, and after the exam;

*Grantees provide technical assistance in a variety of ways: webinars, roundtables, monthly conference calls, mentoring, peer-to-peer consultations, site visits, presentations, and more.*



## CA • Grantee Perspective

For the last eight years, we have been honored to serve as a national TA Provider for OWW grantees. The OWW funding awards have made it possible for us to engage in national outreach and education to build the capacity of thousands of OWW grantees in the field to understand the housing rights of survivors so that they can work with and advocate for survivors facing housing obstacles. Furthermore, we have developed a library of field resources that include important strategies for advocates working with housing providers and best practices for landlords.

**NATIONAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW PROJECT, CALIFORNIA (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**



### IN • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program allows the community to collectively improve the protective order process, prevent and process juvenile DV, and improve services for victims of sexual assault. Systemwide attention to these important priorities might not have been achieved without federal funding. The Julian Center produced two e-trainings in collaboration with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and the Domestic Violence Network (DVN) during this reporting period. The first was about the effects of sexual assault and how officers can assist victims, and the second was about domestic/sexual violence within the LGBTQ+ community. Both were required viewing for all 1500+ sworn IMPD officers. The grant partners coordinated with two local agencies, the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault (ICESA) and Indy Pride, to ensure that the content of the e-trainings was relevant and culturally appropriate.

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA (ICJR PROGRAM)



### TX • Grantee Perspective

Disability Program funding has allowed us to develop collaborative and evolving relationships with our local mental health and developmental disability service agency (Austin Travis County Integral Care) and the disability rights organization (Disability Rights Texas). We have been able to develop relationships and create shared goals that we believe will be sustained long-term. The collaborative partners have worked together to identify cross-training needs and educate each other's staff on matters related to safety planning, services and resources, qualifications for obtaining services, and making effective referrals for the people we are each serving. We have been able to engage in curriculum development and in forming and convening advisory committees and work groups focused on improving services and cultural awareness to all community members.

TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVAL CENTER, TEXAS (DISABILITY PROGRAM)

heightened understanding of common trauma responses to sexual assault; and being prepared to offer testimony in court (Office on Violence Against Women, 2013, 2016).

Trained professionals involved in divorce, custody, or child protection cases (e.g., judges, Guardians ad litem, custody evaluators, caseworkers, and attorneys) can support victims navigating the criminal and civil legal systems (Cattaneo & Goodman, 2010; White & Sienkiewicz, 2018). Training on risk assessment and safety planning is especially important in domestic violence and sexual assault cases, because victims may face greater danger when they attempt to leave (Crossman et al., 2016; Thomas et al., 2015). Without training, domestic/sexual violence may be minimized or remain unrecognized, and professionals may make inappropriate or even harmful recommendations and decisions (Smith & Skinner, 2017; Watson & Ancis, 2013). Their actions or inaction may further expose children to an abusive parent, place the victim in danger, or not safeguard the victim from an abuser who uses the court or child protective systems to continue the abuse (Campbell, 2017; Campbell & Messing, 2017; Hayes, 2015; Saunders et al., 2016).

There is a perpetual need for both basic and advanced training and technical assistance for advocates and staff in the victim services field, which is chronically under-resourced and subject to high staff turnover. Many agencies serving victims of domestic/sexual violence operate with limited budgets, and staff are likely to juggle high caseloads. In 2016, the annual Domestic Violence Counts survey found that in a single 24-hour period, victims made nearly 12,000 requests for services that could not be met, because programs did not have the resources to provide these services (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2017). VAWA-funded grantees offer training and technical assistance for those responding to the needs of victims, such as best practices in organizational structures, developing supportive work environments, managing secondary trauma (i.e., the trauma suffered when one hears about others' firsthand experiences of trauma), reducing compassion fatigue (i.e., reduced feelings of compassion toward those who have suffered, developing as a result of frequent exposure to other people's trauma), and improving self-care. Advocates who are well-trained are better able to support victims seeking to become and remain free from violence (Choi, 2016; Frey, Beesley, Abbott, & Kendrick, 2017; Merchant & Whiting, 2015).

Across the two-year reporting period, **1,366** VAWA-funded grantees convened a total of **26,516** training events, and trained **714,768** professionals, including:

- **169,886** victim advocates and other advocacy organization and agency staff;
- **91,074** law enforcement officers;
- **59,915** health professionals, such as mental health providers, health care professionals, and SANEs/SAFEs;

- **44,163** attorneys and law students;
- **27,514** government agency staff;<sup>xxi</sup>
- **18,909** court personnel;
- **15,936** prosecutors; and
- **7,955** faith-based organization staff.

VAWA-funded grantees most often provided training on the dynamics of domestic/sexual violence and services available to victims of these crimes, safety planning, and confidentiality.

Across the two-year reporting period:

- **353** Disability, State Coalitions, Technical Assistance, and Tribal Coalitions Program grantees provided **152,015** consultations and **5,098** site visits to a broad range of professionals; and

**109** LAV Program grantees provided technical assistance to legal professionals (including attorneys, judges, prosecutors, legal services staff, Guardians ad litem, friends of the court, and court mediators) and victim advocates.



#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

There are tribal grantees who have made significant changes in their programs and their communities, however this has been through years of developing programming, engaging the community, and changing beliefs. Tribal communities have not had the benefit of resources that we take for granted in mainstream society and so must, in some cases, build from the bottom up, facing opposition from their own community members. Change does not happen easily in a community that has high rates of poverty, homelessness, addiction, suicide, and many other socio-economic challenges. The TA agreement provided our program with the opportunity to bring information and training to tribal grantees, helping them to understand the issues without criticism. Our program takes tribal grantees through a process that relies on their own strengths and encouragement to effect change in their community.

**MENDING THE SACRED HOOP (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

<sup>xxi</sup> This number includes 7,367 tribal government agency staff.

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# Conclusion

This report reflects two years of collective efforts to respond to domestic/sexual violence across the nation. It describes significant accomplishments that would not have been possible in the absence of VAWA funding, and highlights evolving and ongoing challenges.

Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017, VAWA discretionary grant programs funded more than **2,000** grantees and technical assistance providers. Over **one million** services were provided to victims and their families as they coped with the immediate and long-term impact of violence in their lives, helping victims remain safe and establish independence after leaving an abusive relationship, and connecting victims with resources to support their recovery. During each six-month reporting period, on average, VAWA-funded grantees provided **112,302** individuals with supportive services such as shelter, crisis intervention, and advocacy.

VAWA-funded grantees used funds to train **714,768** service providers, criminal justice personnel, and other professionals to improve their response to victims. More than **1.2 million** individuals participated in VAWA-funded education, awareness, or prevention activities. Law enforcement made **48,413** arrests, and courts disposed of **3,139** criminal cases, of which **38%** resulted in convictions.

The following sections present aggregate quantitative and qualitative grantee data from **21** currently and formerly authorized grant programs, including OIW's comprehensive technical assistance initiative, that further demonstrate the effectiveness of VAWA funding nationwide.

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# The Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program

While sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking can affect victims in any age group, individuals who are 50 years of age or older who experience elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation can face unique barriers to receiving assistance.

**RECOGNIZING THIS, THE ENHANCED TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program (Abuse in Later Life or ALL Program) supports a comprehensive coordinated community response (CCR) to address and prevent elder abuse.**

## 57 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 57 unique grantees reported activities funded by the ALL Program.

## 826 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 826 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 6,274 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 6,274 people.

Age or disability may increase isolation for victims of elder abuse, and professionals may mistakenly perceive age or disability, rather than abuse, as the reason for a victim's injuries. Victims may depend on their abusers for care or housing, and abusers may intimidate them using threats of placing the victim in a nursing home. The victim may also experience shame or embarrassment in addition to the fear of losing the support their abuser provides. It is particularly critical for criminal justice professionals and victim service providers to recognize indicators that an older individual is being abused.

*Sexual violence against older women is rarely talked about. Ageism contributes to the mistaken notion that older people are asexual, which fosters the dangerous assumption that they cannot be targets of sexual violence. Older women may be reliant on their perpetrators to provide their care, which makes victims especially vulnerable to continued violence (Fileborn, 2017).*



### FL • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving OWW funding for the Abuse in Later Life program, there was no forum for elder serving agency and organization professionals to meet and discuss issues related to the well-being of older adults. The Coordinated Community Response on Elder Abuse, now in Duval, Baker, and Nassau counties, is that forum for discussions that lead to the system changes needed to address crime against older adults. We have uncovered problems with reporting elder abuse cases, concerns over the language used to define what is an elder abuse case between agencies, and failure to ensure investigators receive cases from APS and for APS to move cases forward to law enforcement.

WOMEN'S CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



### WA • Grantee Perspective

The Elder Grants Program funding has allowed us to provide training to law enforcement professionals and cross-training to victim service providers on how to recognize and respond to elder abuse. We have also been able to adapt this training curriculum to provide condensed “mini-trainings” on the topic to community groups who have not been able to attend the cross-trainings. This funding has also allowed us to develop a Coordinated Community Response Team focused on systems change and multi-agency collaboration to improve our response to elder abuse in our community. Prior to this funding, we did not have a concentrated effort dedicated to this cause. Also as a result of this funding, we now have the opportunity to provide direct victim services to older adult victims of abuse, which was previously not possible as there are no similar programs in place in our community that are specific to this population.

PIERCE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON

The Abuse in Later Life Program enhances the safety of victims by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent elder abuse. Purpose areas include:

- Train programs to assist criminal justice system personnel in recognizing, addressing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Provide or enhance services for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
- Create or support multidisciplinary collaborative community responses to victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and
- Conduct cross-training for victim service organizations, governmental agencies, courts, law enforcement, and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose areas to this program:

- Provide training programs to assist attorneys, healthcare providers, faith-based leaders, or other community-based organizations in recognizing and addressing instances of abuse in later life; and
- Conduct outreach activities and awareness campaigns to ensure that victims of abuse in later life receive appropriate assistance.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address these purpose areas. If an activity falling under one of the added purpose areas could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **57** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **6** (11%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
  - Create or support multidisciplinary collaborative community responses to victims.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide services to victims and training for criminal justice professionals to help ensure a CCR to victims of elder abuse. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **55** (96%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **44** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds for program coordinators and victim advocates.

Table 1   Staff supported with Abuse in Later Life grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: Selected groups	
Staff funded	6-month average
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>55</b>
Program coordinators	<b>21</b> 48%
Victim advocates	<b>15</b> 34%
Administrators	<b>2</b> 5%
Counselors	<b>2</b> 5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Training

Grantees train professionals to effectively respond to older victims of domestic/sexual violence and elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **47** (82%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **179** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **6,274** people.
- Most often these trainings reached law enforcement officers (**38%**), elder services agencies (**21%**), and victim services organizations (**14%**).

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. Victims may receive victim advocacy, crisis intervention, financial counseling, legal advocacy, transportation, safety planning, or other services as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **40** (70%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **826** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.



### IN • Grantee Perspective

Prior to this funding, our community did not have a specific position or agency that provided services to male and female victims ages 50 or older, who were abused by an intimate partner, family member, or caregiver. The funds from the Elder Grants Program have allowed the Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County to hire the first Abuse in Later Life Case Manager in our community (and state).

INDIANA SUPREME COURT



### SC • Grantee Perspective

As a result of the Elder Grants Program, the City of Charleston Mayor’s Office on Aging has been able to hire an additional staff member to expand its capacity to engage new partners, such as financial institutions, in efforts to improve the safety and quality of life of seniors in our community. Expanded outreach to local partners has created more awareness about abuse in later life and has helped dispel myths about the aging population and where abuse occurs. As a growing retirement community, a lot of attention is paid to abuse and neglect at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, even though 63% of adults over the age of 60 live alone or with a family member. This has generated interest from organizations who want to learn how to identify signs of abuse and appropriate actions to take. Without this grant, the Mayor’s Office on Aging, City of Charleston Police Department, and local service providers would not have been able to participate in the Training of Trainers programs that will allow us to provide this specialized training to service providers in the community.

CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



### VA • Grantee Perspective

This grant has allowed us to provide in-depth training for law enforcement and victim services in the Bristol and Washington County community to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This training would not have been available otherwise. It has positioned those who have received the training for trainers to become leaders in addressing this issue.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



### MN • Grantee Perspective

OWW Abuse in Later Life Elder Grants funding has allowed us to fill a significant need in our community. As a result of the creation of the Aging Services Program, we are now able to offer enhanced services to abuse victims in later life. We are able to provide ongoing support and case management services, legal advocacy, and a support group specific to older adult victims. We have also been able to educate our community and colleagues. This funding has allowed our community to train professionals and continue to seek out educational opportunities for agencies, organizations, and individuals on the many facets of elder abuse.

ALEXANDRA HOUSE, MINNESOTA

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **502** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **299** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **251** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **246** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **211** victims; and
- Transportation services to **97** victims.

### Hotline calls:

- Grantees received a total of **2,540** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**61%**) came from victims.

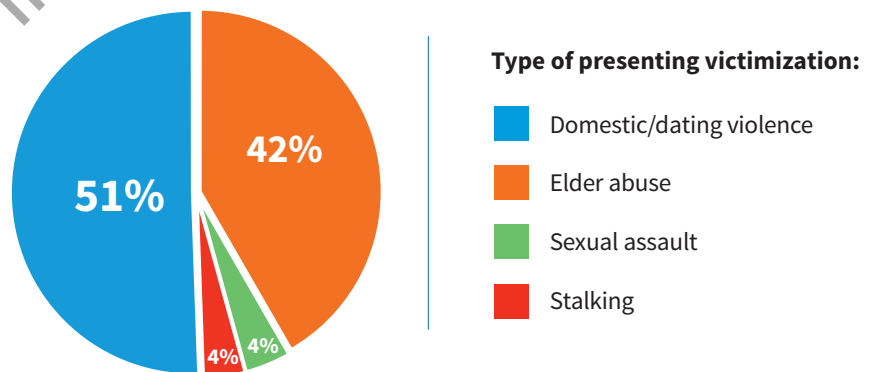
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (51%).

**Figure 1** Provision of victim services by Abuse in Later Life Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



**Table 2** Victims seeking services with Abuse in Later Life grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>839</b>	
Victims served	799	95%
Victims partially served	27	3%
Victims not served	13	2%

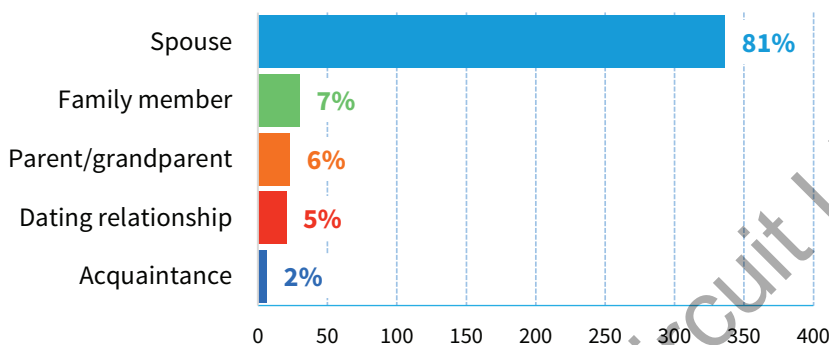
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Abuse in Later Life Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Abuse in Later Life Program grant.

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

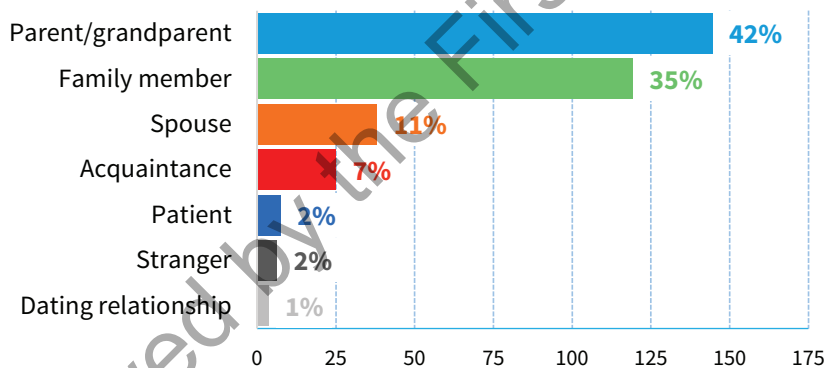
Grantees serve older victims of domestic/sexual violence and victims of elder abuse. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (47%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **child/grandchild** (21%) or another **family or household member** (19%).

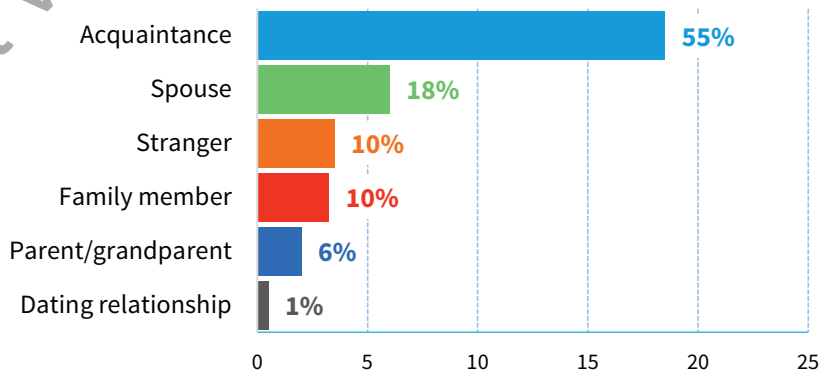
**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Elder abuse** (6-month average)



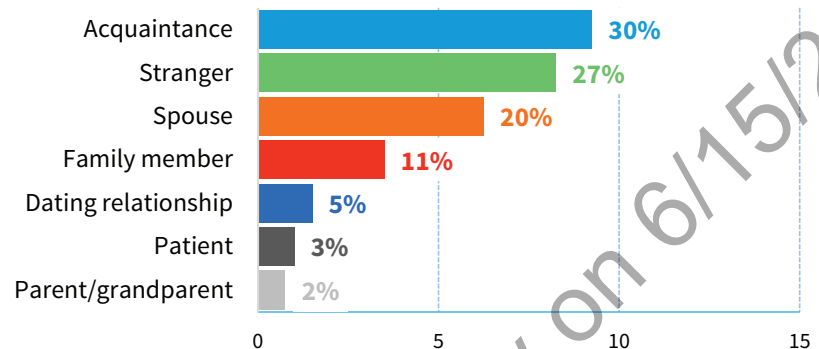
**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



### IA • Grantee Perspective

These funds have provided us with learning opportunities and an avenue and a measure of force to bring attention to the issue of abuse in later life and to educate law enforcement, prosecutors, and members of the judicial system who play a role in stopping it. This opportunity and these funds have created positive change just simply as a result of bringing people together. Many conversations have occurred that would never have occurred without this grant. Further, without this funding our outreach to older victims would be limited to those who report victimization. Though our DV/SA organizations do terrific work, we would not be conducting outreach to some of our most vulnerable older Iowans who reside in rural areas or who are not able or willing to come forward to report victimization.

**Figure 5** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault**  
(6-month average)



### Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

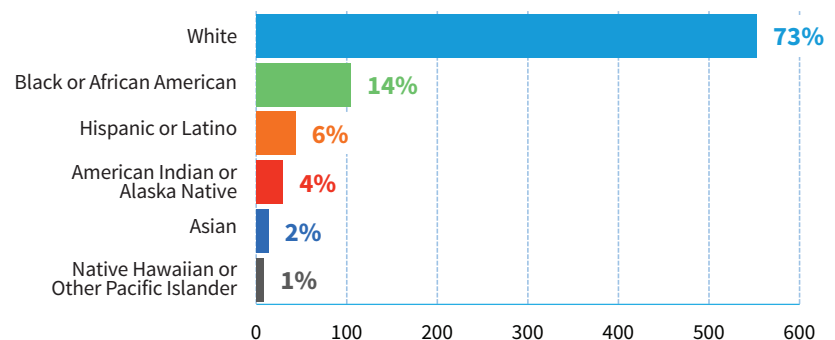
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Services inadequate/inappropriate for victims with mental health issues;
- Services were not appropriate for victim; or
- Conflict of interest.

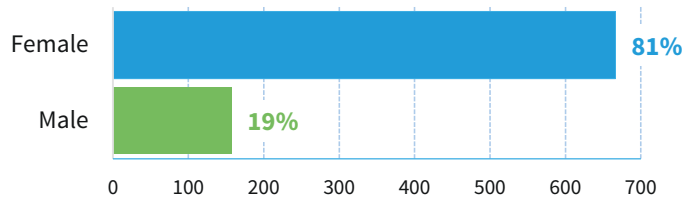
### Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **826** victims during each 6-month reporting period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (73%), **female** (81%), and between the ages of **50 and 59** (45%).

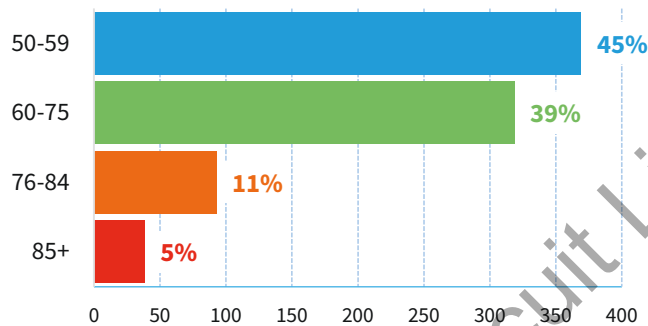
**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity**  
(6-month average)



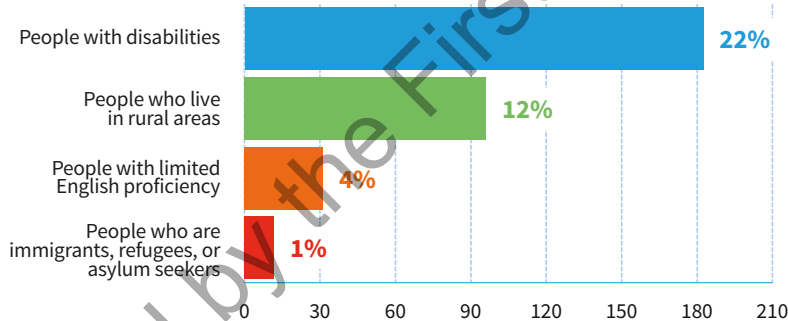
**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 9** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



**ME • Grantee Perspective**

One way this funding has allowed us to provide additional resources to elder victims is the expansion of the assistance to include individuals 50 and above, who were not just intimate partners but also victims whose abuser is an adult son or daughter, family member, or a person in a position of trust. Our prior assistance for elders began with those individuals who were 60 and above.

**FAMILY CRISIS SERVICES, MAINE**



**MN • Grantee Perspective**

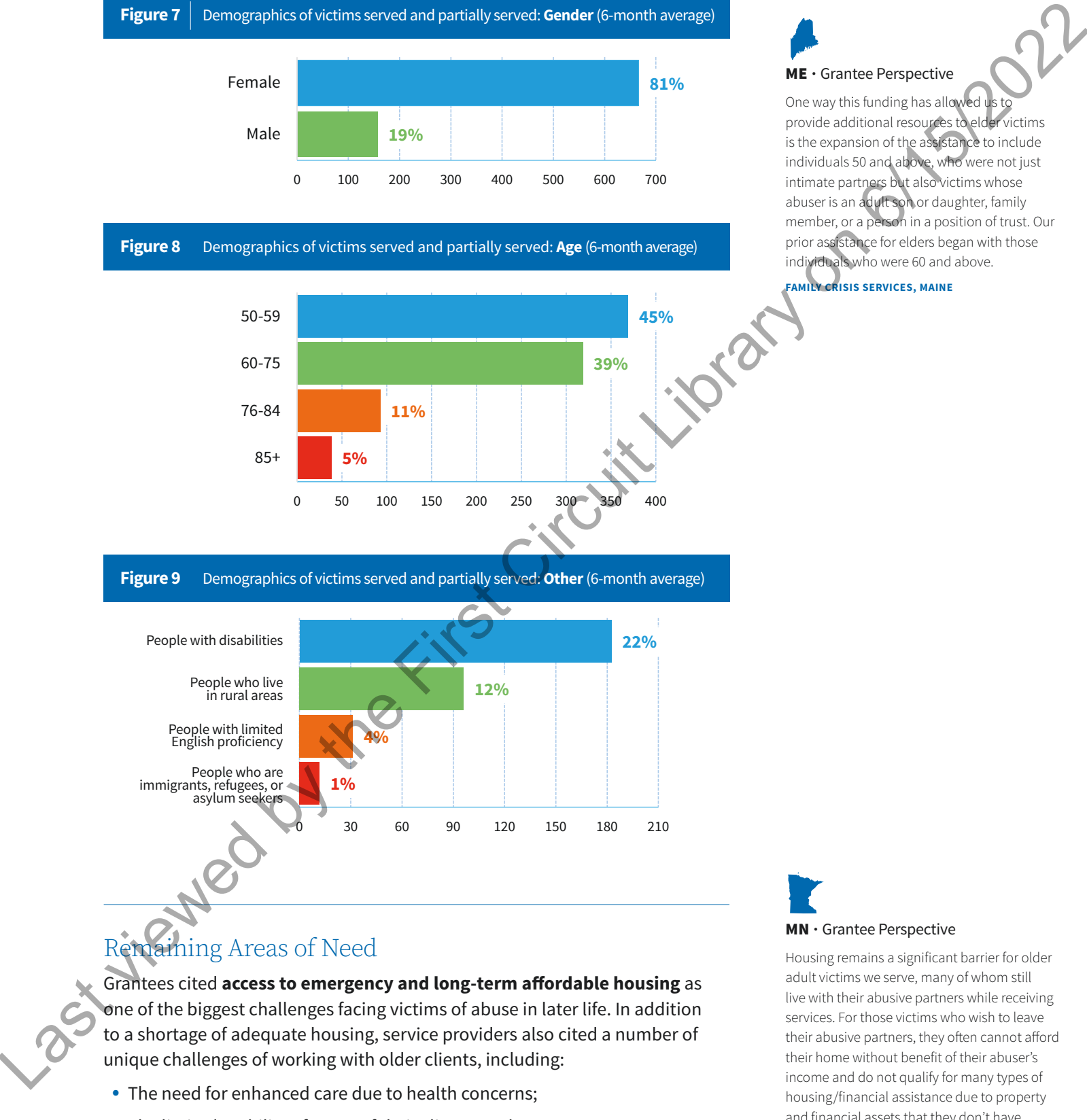
Housing remains a significant barrier for older adult victims we serve, many of whom still live with their abusive partners while receiving services. For those victims who wish to leave their abusive partners, they often cannot afford their home without benefit of their abuser's income and do not qualify for many types of housing/financial assistance due to property and financial assets that they don't have immediate access to. Some clients who would like to leave, and who are victims of neglect by a caregiver, often need assisted living, which they cannot afford.

**ALEXANDRA HOUSE, MINNESOTA**

**Remaining Areas of Need**

Grantees cited **access to emergency and long-term affordable housing** as one of the biggest challenges facing victims of abuse in later life. In addition to a shortage of adequate housing, service providers also cited a number of unique challenges of working with older clients, including:

- The need for enhanced care due to health concerns;
- The limited mobility of many of their clients; and
- The unique financial circumstances of older victims.





### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

In our community, the greatest challenge or obstacle to providing services is lack of reporting. Victim fear, shame, embarrassment, and even feelings of guilt with regard to abuse create a strong stigma about reporting elder abuse. In addition, older victims do not feel that services are available to them. For example, we have a domestic violence shelter, however, most victims assume that this program is for younger women with children. We also have a 24-hour crisis line, which was identified by both elders and service providers in the community needs assessment as the number one service needed for our community with regard to Abuse in Later Life. Our community has had a crisis line for a number of years; however, elders (and apparently service providers) feel that this line is not for elder abuse.

**MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN**



### SC • Grantee Perspective

In focus groups, older adults have described the challenges they face finding help for themselves or a friend who is being abused. They are unfamiliar with existing community directories and hotlines, including 211-1, and simply do not know where to start. They have described going through the phone book and not being able to find an organization to help, especially if they are calling after normal business hours. Even Adult Protective Services is only open during normal business hours (although Adult Protective Services will expand to a 24/7 operation in July 2017). Law enforcement is the last call they make when they cannot find anyone else to help. Better coordination and promotion of referral resources is needed to make it easier to find help.

**CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**



### NC • Grantee Perspective

Based on the data received via the individual survey responses and service provider responses, the most significant areas of need for providing services to older individuals/victims include the need for case management services that will link existing services together in a way that helps older victims who are currently unserved/underserved (due to being “screened out” or not receiving services because they do not meet traditional eligibility criteria, definitions or categories of victims in need of services). Having a case manager who will be able to receive older individuals who are being harmed who have “fallen through the cracks,” and who will assess their needs and interests, help identify existing services, assist them in accessing helpful resources, and provide ongoing support as is appropriate to them, will be especially helpful.

**FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Systems change, which is critical to the success of this program, is to ensure that well-trained gender appropriate interpreters are available to the victims of this crime for several reasons: 1) police interpreters are usually men who are acculturated to “change the story” when they come from cultures that culturally sanction DV and other abusive behaviors; 2) the only Southeast Asian DV advocate is unable to serve as such when she is called upon by LE to fulfill the role of interpreter; 3) the intimidation factor for Southeast Asian victims is significantly reduced with the use of trusted female interpreters; and 4) victim cooperation will be increased proportionately with this critical systems change.

**HEALTHY HOUSE WITHIN A MATCH COALITION, CALIFORNIA**

Grantees noted that **failure to report abuse** constituted the biggest barrier to serving victims of abuse in later life. They cited a number of reasons for the lack of reporting, including:

- Shame and embarrassment on the part of the victim;
- Manipulation by family members and caretakers;
- Physical isolation due to lack of access to transportation;
- Little knowledge about available services; and
- Lack of community education about the dynamics of elder abuse.

They emphasized the **need to increase public education and victim outreach efforts** in order to encourage victims to come forward.

Grantees felt that **enhanced coordination and collaboration between service providers and improved case management** would allow victims of elder abuse to better access services.

Finally, grantees cited the need to reach out to and **provide specialized services for underserved populations**, including:

- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- Immigrant victims;
- LGBTQ populations; and
- Male victims.



# Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program

The Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (Campus Program) is designed to encourage institutions of higher education to adopt a comprehensive coordinated community response (CCR) to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

## 134 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 134 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Campus Program.

## 893 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 893 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 248,767 Students Reached

Grantees reached a total of 248,767 incoming students through prevention education programming (36% of all incoming students).

Campuses address these crimes by developing campus- and community-based responses, which include:

- Campus victim services;
- Campus law enforcement;
- Health services;
- Mandatory education of incoming students; and
- Links to local criminal justice agencies and service providers.

*An examination of ten public universities' sexual assault prevention and reporting policies found that universities' policies tend to focus on the threat of violence, as opposed to perpetrated sexual violence itself, often leaving sexual violence victims without critical resources that a more explicit sexual misconduct policy could provide (Streng & Kamimura, 2015).*



### NJ • Grantee Perspective

Prior to funding, our campus response to SA, DV, and stalking was comprised of a disconnected array of basic services. In addition, many underserved groups did not have access to victim-centered services. Prevention education was non-existent other than a few lectures included in random courses. Grant funding has enabled us to develop an infrastructure that promotes continuous improvement and increased coordination of communication for these issues through the establishment of a civilian complaint review board (CCRB). Bergen Community College has successfully created victim-centered systemic responses, appeals, and sanctions on campus. We have comprehensive training for student peer “Ambassadors.” Additionally, we now collaborate with campus and community partners to deliver education and training on the full range of SA, DV, and stalking issues for all incoming freshman and internal constituencies. We have created, implemented, and institutionalized an annual online mandatory training for our campus public safety and police on the dynamics of victim impact, preliminary investigation, interviewing the victims, and false reports. We maintain records of each DV, SA and stalking incident on our campus using a case management approach, while ensuring the privacy and confidentiality needs of the survivor. This has all been accomplished as a result of receiving funding.

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NEW JERSEY



### MS • Grantee Perspective

The Campus Program revitalized the institution’s response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. Violence prevention is a standard part of all orientation and new student programming, and that need has been communicated even when staff have changed in departments. Students and parents at our orientation programming always reaffirm how surprised and pleased they are to hear both about prevention and our comprehensive resources.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

The Campus Program enhances the safety of victims by supporting higher education institutions in the development of services and programs uniquely designed to address and prevent domestic/sexual violence on campuses. Purpose areas include:

- Provide personnel, training, technical assistance, and data collection, to increase apprehension, investigation, and adjudication;
- Develop and implement campus policies, protocols, and services that more effectively identify and respond to these crimes;
- Implement educational programming on prevention;
- Develop or strengthen victim services programs, including providing legal, medical, or psychological counseling;
- Provide assistance and information about victims’ options on and off campus to bring disciplinary or other legal action, including assistance to victims in immigration or trafficking matters;
- Expand data collection and communication systems;
- Provide capital improvements including improved lighting and communications facilities; and
- Support improved coordination among campus administrators, campus security personnel, and local law enforcement.

VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose areas to this program:

- Develop or adapt and provide developmentally, culturally appropriate, and linguistically accessible print or electronic materials to address both prevention and intervention; and
- Develop and promote population-specific strategies and projects for victims from underserved populations on campus.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address these purpose areas. If an activity falling under one of the added areas could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **134** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **6** (4%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Implement and operate education programs for prevention;
  - Develop and implement campus policies, protocols, and services; and
  - Support improved coordination.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, coordination, prevention education, and victim services to ensure a CCR to domestic/sexual violence on college campuses. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **126** (94%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **85** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and trainers/educators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Campus grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>85</b>	
Program coordinators	<b>40</b>	<b>47%</b>
Trainers	<b>19</b>	<b>22%</b>
Victim advocates	<b>10</b>	<b>12%</b>
Administrators	<b>7</b>	<b>8%</b>
Support staff	<b>4</b>	<b>5%</b>

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



### WV • Grantee Perspective

The number of incoming students who participated in the Fall semester mandatory prevention programs on 9 campuses was less than half in 2013 and increased to nearly 80% in 2016. Prior to this project, most campuses were struggling to conduct one program a year. Now, every campus has a core program, with consistent messaging, which they have worked to build upon.

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY, WEST VIRGINIA



### ME • Grantee Perspective

The Campus Program has allowed us to hire an individual who can dedicate her full attention to the creation of an education and prevention curriculum. This curriculum is the cornerstone of our efforts to reduce sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking on our campus. The leverage of the Campus Program has brought new individuals to the table to discuss these important issues and has focused the campus in ways we have not been previously. This coordination of efforts has allowed us to expand services and develop new avenues for education and prevention. While Bates has been committed to these issues and has provided extensive institutional support, the grant has allowed us to move at a faster pace.

BATES COLLEGE, MAINE



### NM • Grantee Perspective

Campus Program funds have allowed our department to employ a center advocate and education coordinator. Having the ability to hire this employee is monumental in providing services to our center sites. She is responsible for implementation of all prevention and awareness programming and provides direct services to identified victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking at all four center sites. She is able to provide culturally sensitive programming and services to our primarily non-traditional student population. She has developed center-specific literature which has been carefully tailored to each of our four center sites. Her ability to serve as a liaison has created a stronger sense of unity between the main campus and its sister sites.

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY

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## Minimum Requirements

Each campus receiving funds must address four requirements:

1. Create a CCR to address domestic/sexual violence on campus. This multidisciplinary response involves the entire campus as well as the larger community including: student affairs, student health, athletics, residence life, campus police, campus judicial boards, local law enforcement, local victim services providers, prosecutors, and state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions.
2. Provide mandatory prevention and education programs about domestic/sexual violence for all incoming students:
  - **525,472** incoming students received prevention education (76% of all incoming students).
  - **248,767** incoming students received prevention education supported with grant funds (36% of all incoming students).
3. Provide training for campus police and security:<sup>i</sup>
  - **2,619** campus police/security officers received training with grant funds.
4. Train judicial/disciplinary board members about domestic/sexual violence:<sup>i</sup>
  - **4,367** judicial/disciplinary board members received training with grant funds.



### CO • Grantee Perspective

The funding has allowed many training opportunities over the past several years that have been invaluable to forming policy, practice and procedures in the provision of victim/survivor services. As a result of these trainings, we have influenced university policies and investigative procedures, and we have increased our trauma-informed investigative processes, resulting in more accurate and effective investigation and resolution outcomes, as well as more effective victim services provision.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS



### GA • Grantee Perspective

It has allowed us to provide SANE training to emergency department nurses after a 15 year absence in SANE services at our local hospital. It has provided the opportunity to provide bystander intervention education to over 25% of our entire campus population.

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY



### NC • Grantee Perspective

This grant allowed CARE to expand the My Stand Mentor bystander intervention training program significantly, giving us the ability to tailor the presentation to different student groups so that we were able to train fraternities, sororities, and two student groups from the university's Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. It also enabled us to increase the overall number of students trained. We trained 52% more students than last year.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, WILMINGTON

## Training

In addition to the training of campus police and judicial/disciplinary board members to fulfill minimum requirements, grantees train professional members of the campus community, such as student affairs staff, faculty, campus law enforcement officers, health and mental health staff, and other community-based professionals. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **96** (72%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **1,395** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **36,054** people.<sup>i</sup>
- Most often these trainings reached student affairs staff (**31%**), educators (**26%**), and peer educators (**14%**).

<sup>i</sup> Attendees at training events are not necessarily unduplicated. Attendees may be reported in both the minimum requirements section and the training section.

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims of domestic/sexual violence, including victim advocacy, crisis intervention, and legal advocacy. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **70** (52%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **893** victims during each 6-month period.
- Nearly **100%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **550** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **438** victims;
- Academic/educational advocacy services to **219** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **219** victims;
- Legal advocacy/court accompaniment services to **94** victims;
- Disciplinary board advocacy services to **88** victims; and
- Housing assistance services to **65** victims.

### Hotline calls:

- Grantees received a total of **1,897** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**71%**) came from victims.

Victims also requested protection orders with the assistance of grant-funded staff. Across the 2-year reporting period:

- **316** temporary protection orders were requested and **285** (90%) were granted; and
- **173** final protection orders were requested and **167** (97%) were granted.



### DE • Grantee Perspective

Since the initiation of our 2011 VAWA grant, and now through our Continuation grant, the Campus Program has allowed us to nearly double the counseling and advocacy services available for victims of sexual assault, dating/ domestic violence & stalking (via the 25% counseling role of the Prevention Specialist position). Without the Campus Program, we would not have otherwise been able to offer this expanded capacity to meet our students' needs.

DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY



### WV • Grantee Perspective

The steady transformation of the nine partnering campuses over the past 3 1/2 years is evidenced in their creation of a basic infrastructure for responding to victims of IPV. None of this work on this level would be possible without the financial support of the Campus Grant. The progress can be measured on many levels - from the creation of training and prevention programs to the formation of CCRTs - but the impact of the project is most important in the response of victims, as they are more comfortable and confident in reporting. Although the campuses report an increase of all forms of IPV, they note experiencing a particularly significant increase in the number of reports of stalking. This reporting increase can be traced both to the awareness and prevention efforts on the campuses as well as the efforts to create more victim-centered responses and policies. The campuses willingly share ideas and resources to identify best-practices. The establishment of a state law enforcement training team is an example of how they are working together to create a safer environment for students, regardless of where they are enrolled. As a consortium, campuses seem more willing to take on large tasks. A major undertaking during this report period has been drafting a campus climate survey for all 9 campuses to administer in 2018. Most of the campuses have not attempted to implement such a survey, yet they not only requested to do it - they requested that it be standardized to help identify trends in the state.

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY, WEST VIRGINIA

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### WV • Grantee Perspective

Campus Program funding has given me a seat at the table. It has given me credibility that has allowed me to move the needle on addressing issues of violence against women on campus. Our campus grant is the largest non-academic grant our campus has received. We still have work to do, but as I reflect over the last three years of progress, I am astounded by all we have been able to accomplish. Over 3,000 students have received education about consent, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and bystander intervention. We have served over 50 victims of violence, and most of those have remained in school due in part to the advocacy we have been able to provide. Our part-time administrative assistant's position has been institutionalized. We have plans to institutionalize our full-time program coordinator over the course of our continuation funding. We have a strong CCR that works well together. As we move into continuation funding, I am excited to see what we will be able to accomplish in the next three years.

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY, WEST VIRGINIA

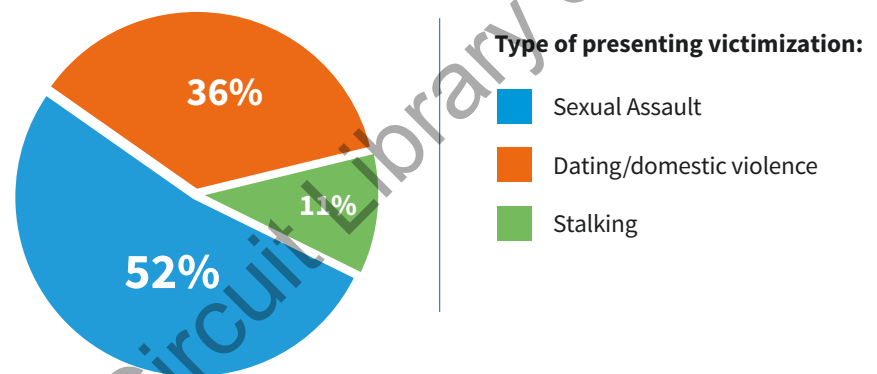
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **sexual assault** (52%).

**Figure 1** | Provision of victim services by Campus Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



**Table 2** | Victims seeking services with Campus grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>893</b>	
Victims served	887	99%
Victims partially served	5	1%
Victims not served	2	< 1%

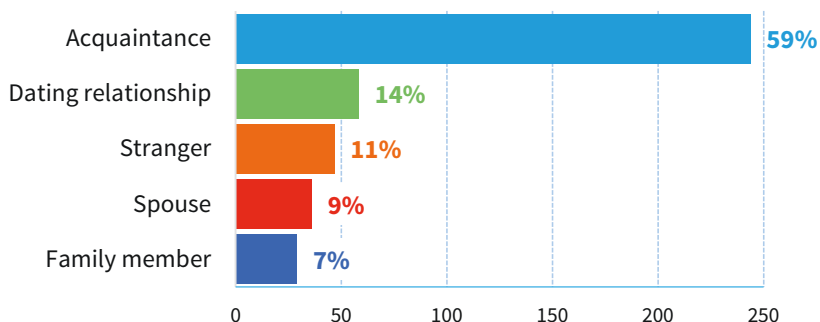
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Campus Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Campus Program grant.

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

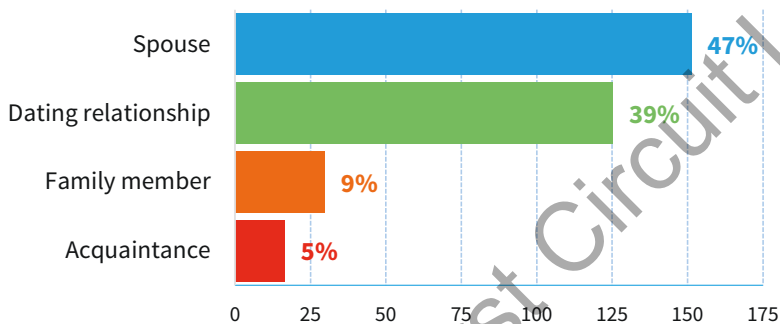
Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by an **acquaintance** (36%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (25%) or by a **spouse or intimate partner** (25%).

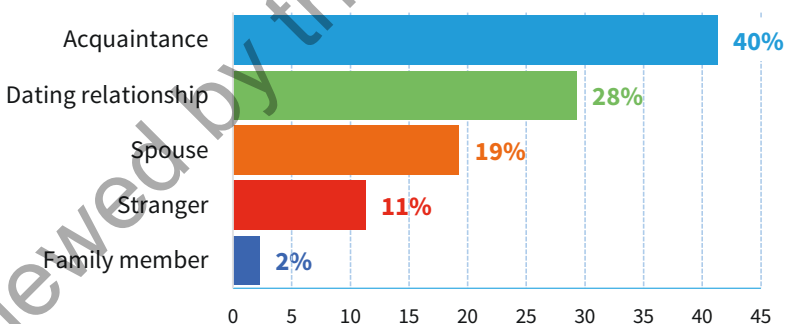
**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Dating/domestic violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



### Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Conflict of interest; or
- Hours of operation.



#### KY • Grantee Perspective

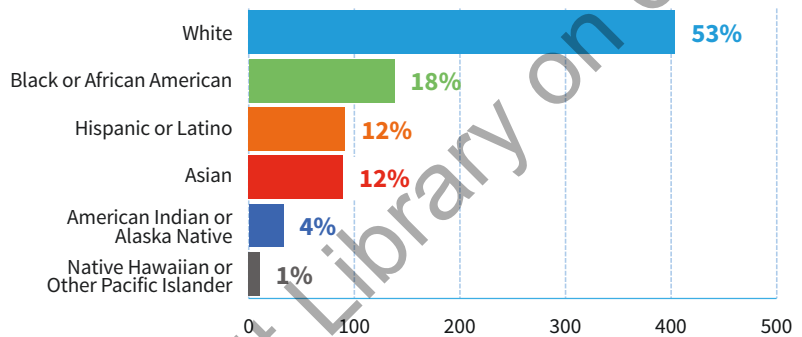
The Campus Program funding has allowed for Northern Kentucky University to create a centralized location to assist survivors that have experienced sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking. Prior to the creation of the Norse Violence Prevention Center, it was difficult for students to determine where resources were on campus. There was no designated advocate on campus to support victims and fulfill all their needs as a student at NKU. Now, with an office and advocate in place, we are better able to support and serve our students.

*As the problem of domestic/sexual violence on campuses has gained national attention, the need for responses tailored to specific racial, sexual, and gender identities has become clearer. A large survey of undergraduate students from across the U.S. found that the predicted probability of sexual assault for black transgender students was 57.7%, compared to 2.8% for white cisgender students (Coulter et al., 2017).*

## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **893** victims during each 6-month reporting period. The majority of those victims were **white** (53%), **female** (92%), and between the ages of **18 and 24** (80%).

**Figure 5** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

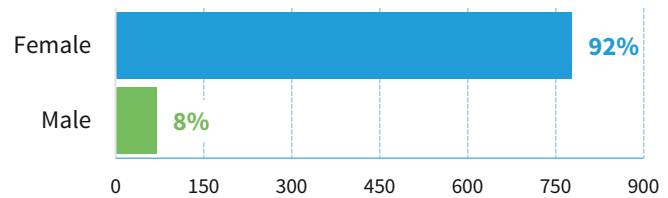


### MI • Grantee Perspective

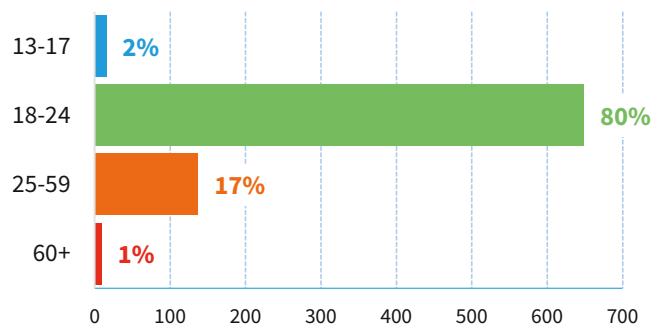
With the Campus Program grant, we have completely implemented the theatre for dialog program, ReACT, and have plans to fully integrate bystander intervention trainings into the programming of the Women’s Center. We are about to hire our first part-time Prevention & Education Coordinator position in order to expand and sustain our prevention efforts, especially with the continuing rise of students seeking victim advocacy on campus. The grant has allowed us to create multiple PSAs that we are continuing to use and expand upon, as we see new students get more out of ongoing opportunities for exposure to anti-violence work rather than one-time presentations. The grant has allowed us to gain the insight of best practice through TA providers around the country, and connected us with other campus grantees in order to learn what has or has not worked on their campuses.

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, MICHIGAN**

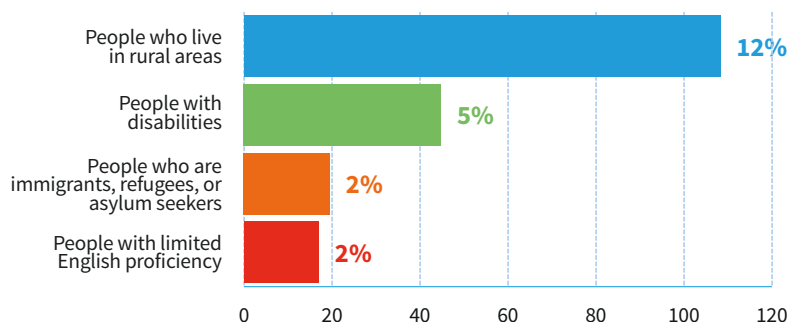
**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)





**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)

## Campus and Community Measures

Grantees provide information, to the extent that information is available, on domestic/sexual violence offenses that occur on campus and on public property or other property related to the institution, that are reported to campus security or local law enforcement.<sup>ii</sup> Of those reported by grantees:

- **537** offenses resulted in criminal charges being filed in the local jurisdiction; and
- **1,285** offenses resulted in campus/disciplinary board actions.

## Remaining Areas of Need

As complex organizations, colleges and universities pointed to **difficulties they faced institutionalizing campus-wide policies toward sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking**. Along these lines, grantees called for:

- Stronger CCRTs;
- Enhanced communication and collaboration between on-and off-campus service providers;
- Better training for staff and faculty on reporting procedures and referrals to on-campus resources;
- Consistent training of campus law enforcement and first responders;
- Increased communication between divisions within the university, including Title IX offices and campus law enforcement; and
- Formalized and written policies and procedures to ensure uniform responses to instances of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.



### OK • Grantee Perspective

One of the most difficult things to overcome in general, with any topic, is this idea that “we trust that people will know what to do, and they will do the right thing.” We need to ensure, through process and procedure that each and every survivor whether or not they decide to come forward, knows what the process of reporting is, what their resources are, and that we as an institution support and believe them. In order for us to get there we need to ensure that our procedures are codified, so that when things inevitably get difficult we have a process to follow and we can identify places where we have weaknesses.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA



### MA • Grantee Perspective

At Worcester Polytechnic Institute, while we received more formal reports this semester, we continue to have low reports of sexual violence, dating violence and stalking, indicating that students are not comfortable accessing campus judicial or local judicial services. Creating a culture in which more students report is a key goal moving forward.

CLARK UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM, MASSACHUSETTS

<sup>ii</sup> This information is not limited to offenses responded to with Campus Program grant funding.



#### PA • Grantee Perspective

Improving services to victims would include increased media and communication about the resources available on campus and in the community. This might include posters strategically placed on campus ie. in male and female residence halls or areas where students congregate; creating a student peer organization focusing on education, advocacy and support; and partnering with male organizations to involve men in the conversation and bystander education.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, PENNSYLVANIA



#### ME • Grantee Perspective

We have also found that students remain uncertain about the reporting responsibilities of different faculty and staff and we are actively working to create messaging and educational campaigns to clarify them. We also found a need to rectify some misconceptions about the reporting process and about support services both on campus and in the community and will be developing messaging to respond to these myths. Some of this work needs to be done in conjunction with our community partners -- for example, addressing misconceptions regarding how local law enforcement responds to a report. We also want to expand the education about and awareness of services provided in our local community. While many of these services are included in our print materials and on our website, students do not seem to have a firm understanding of the range of resources available to them or how to access them.

BATES COLLEGE, MAINE



#### OH • Grantee Perspective

Our recent climate survey found LGBTQ students reporting a higher rate of victimization. However, those seeking support services are a much smaller number. We are working with our LGBTQ student center and student organizations to find ways to reach out to this population and ensure cultural competence of all those who may interact with a survivor in the area of university response.

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, OHIO

Grantees frequently emphasized the need to **increase awareness of sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking among all student groups.**

Many pointed to the need to **expand mandatory education and prevention training to all students**, including students entering campus during winter and spring sessions, online students, graduate students, and off-campus students, including those studying abroad. Others suggested expanding outreach efforts beyond mandatory prevention education to reach more students.

In addition to expanding education on sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, many grantees felt that **victims were not sufficiently aware of or willing to use the services and options available to them.** In order to increase victims' use of on-and off-campus services, grantees suggested:

- Training staff, faculty, and graduate students in trauma-informed response and increasing their awareness of the services available to students;
- Involving more students in bystander intervention training;
- Improving the protocol for first responders, including campus security and local police; and
- Better direct communication to students about available services.

Grantees emphasized the need to **reach out to underserved populations on campus**, including:

- International students;
- LGBTQ community members;
- Students with disabilities; and
- Students of color.

Overall, grantees cited a need to combat **misinformation about sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking as well as negative stereotypes of victims**, which they felt **discouraged victims from reporting crimes** to law enforcement and Title IX offices. Grantees suggested a number of interventions to improve reporting of crimes, including:

- Engaging male students in anti-violence initiatives;
- Better engagement with college athletic programs;
- The use of campus climate surveys and program evaluation;
- Increasing offender accountability; and
- Clarifying campus policies and protocols for investigation and disciplinary action.

# Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies

VAWA 2013 authorized the Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies (Consolidated Youth or CY Program), which consolidated the purpose areas from four pre-existing VAWA-funded programs: the Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Stalking Program (Children Exposed to Violence or CEV Program), the Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Engaging Men and Youth or EMY Program), the Services, Training, Education and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program (STEP Program), and the Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Grant Program (Youth Services Program), and added new purpose areas as well.

**CONSOLIDATED YOUTH PROGRAM GRANTEEES INCORPORATE CEV, EMY, STEP, and Youth services purpose areas, including teen dating violence awareness prevention, programs that respond to children’s exposure to violence in their homes through services and training, and engaging men as leaders and role models.**

## 56 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 56 unique grantees reported activities funded by the CY Program.

## 1,027 Child Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 1,027 child victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 56,623 People Reached

Grantees reached a total of 56,623 people at community-wide events.

*Findings from a nationally representative study of children exposed to violence, showed that one-third of respondents experienced a physical assault in the past year, and 13% of those aged 14-17 experienced sexual assault or abuse in that time. Another large national study found that among high school adolescents, 11.7% of female and 7.4% of male students experienced physical dating violence, and 15.6% of female and 5.4% of male students experienced sexual dating violence (Finkelhor et al., 2015; Olsen et al., 2017).*

Last viewed by First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022



### WA • Grantee Perspective

Our work to prevent dating, domestic, and sexual violence against LGBTQ youth continues to be an innovative force in our communities. We were able to expand our Q-LAB prevention work with youth in high schools using storytelling this year. Creating youth generated and adult supported messages of support around consent, boundaries, building strong social networks, as well as breaking silence around vulnerable identities proved to be powerful for young people. Q-LAB advocacy programming continues to be informed by all that the NW Network has learned from our communities and our ongoing evaluation work. We continue to center youth voices in our direct service work and are expanding community-based solutions for their healing through our partnerships with organizations, coalitions, and community-driven anti-violence efforts

**NW NETWORK OF BI, TRANS, LESBIAN AND GAY SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, WASHINGTON**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

The Ali Forney Center has been able to hire two licensed psychotherapists who provide trauma-informed therapeutic interventions utilizing a harm reduction model. During this time 50 young people who reported experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking and wanted therapy, were connected to an OVV-funded therapist. AFC has also been able to hire an outreach worker who provides a presence online and in person disseminating information to potential clients about the many services AFC provides. AFC is able to have the personnel to create and strengthen alliances and network with like-minded agencies such as the Anti-Violence Project and the Center for Anti-Violence Education. The services provided through our legal aid partner, Urban Justice Center, have been expanded to provide our clients with more legal support and advocacy. AFC staff were able to be trained by the Center for Anti-Violence Education on topics such as de-escalation techniques and trauma-informed responses.

**THE ALI FORNEY CENTER, NEW YORK**

Grantees must provide culturally, linguistically, and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations, or referrals to existing services within their community.

### Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Provide services for children and youth exposed to domestic/sexual violence, including youth victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, such as direct counseling, advocacy, or mentoring, and must include support for the non-abusing parent or the child's caretaker;
- Provide training, coordination, and advocacy for programs that serve children and youth (such as Head Start, child care, and after-school programs) on how to safely and confidentially identify children and families experiencing domestic violence and properly refer them to programs that can provide direct services to the children and family; and
- Create public education campaigns and supporting community organizing to encourage men and boys to work as allies to women and girls, endeavoring to prevent domestic/sexual violence.

VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

### General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **56** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

**9** (16%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.

### Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training to professionals who work with children; training and public education to engage men and youth in ending violence; and victim services to child victims and children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **54** (96%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **106** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and mental health professionals.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with CY grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>106</b>	
Program coordinators	26	25%
Mental health professionals	14	13%
Administrators	13	12%
Trainers	13	12%
Case managers	7	7%
Counselors	7	7%
Victim advocates	7	7%
Outreach workers	6	6%
Child advocates	5	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



**VT • Grantee Perspective**

HOPE Works used this grant to expand its child and youth services and complete the long-awaited work of bringing a clinical therapist to our agency to house on-site clinical services within our center. (We also used grant funds] to co-create a sex trafficking coordinated community response task force for Chittenden County. Our new clinical services are now available for referral for all MOU partners, as well as with our local community health centers, our hospital and its Forensic Nursing Program (SANE program), our campus populations, local police departments, transitional housing programs for incarcerated youth reentering the community, and with staff from youth spaces and centers.

**HOPE WORKS, VERMONT**



**FL • Grantee Perspective**

CEV Program funding allowed CSA prevention education to be offered to all thirteen Neighborhood Centers for Families (NCFs) in Orange County, as well as the more than twenty Head Start/Early Head Start sites in the county. CEV funding has made possible the in-progress development of an online training module specifically designed for youth care providers. This training will be a tool to expand CSA awareness and prevention training to more child-serving organizations that may not have the resources to develop their own CSA training materials. CEV funding has expanded bi-lingual (Spanish-English) advocacy services to ensure access to these services to all families in need of them. CEV program funding has enabled recurring training on CSA-related topics to new child protective services staff, Guardian ad Litem and dependency case management staff, which is critical due to high turnover in these positions and the opportunity these professionals have to identify and connect child victims to specialized services.

**ORLANDO HEALTH INC., FLORIDA**

## Training

Grantees provide training to social service and healthcare professionals, educators and other school staff, child care providers, and other professionals to improve the professional identification of and response to children exposed to domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **45** (80%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **1,000** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **21,157** people.
- Most often these trainings reached educators (**21%**), social service organization staff (**11%**), and youth organization staff (**7%**).

## Community Organizing/Mobilization and Prevention

Grant-funded staff assist in community organizing and mobilization, encouraging men and boys to work as allies to prevent physical and/or sexual violence and build safe, supportive, and accountable communities.

- **17** (30%) grantees used funds for community organization/mobilization and prevention.

## Community Organizing Events

Grantees provide community-wide events, such as school presentations and public forums, for members of the communities they are working in.

- Grantees hosted a total of **809** community-wide events.
- Grantees reached a total of **56,623** people at community-wide events.
  - Grantees most frequently hosted public forums (**28%**), school presentations (**27%**), culturally specific events (**18%**), and information tables (**13%**).

*Programs and campaigns may increase men's awareness about gender-based violence, encouraging them to commit to ending it by becoming formally involved in violence prevention efforts, and/or by being a role model and vocal proponent of respectful relationships in their own families and communities (Casey et al., 2013; Casey, Tolman, Carlson, Allen, & Storer, 2017; Tolman et al., 2017).*



#### CA • Grantee Perspective

Because of the funding for the Engaging Men project, Peace Over Violence has been able to take our work with youth leaders to more specific communities, primarily youth of color in South LA. The work with the EM troupe has enabled us to strengthen our youth outreach and to bring more diverse voices into our Youth Over Violence youth leadership group. Through this project, we have also been able to deepen our relationships with community partners in South LA, including our project partners, the Amazing Grace Conservatory and the Brotherhood Crusade. These relationships are key to reaching populations who might not normally access POV services, such as the young men of color who work with Brotherhood Crusade. These partnerships have also strengthened our presence within the community, as there are now three major organizations advocating on behalf of the messages of the project.

PEACE OVER VIOLENCE, CALIFORNIA

## Ongoing Community Organizing Activities

In addition to community-wide events, grantees provided ongoing community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities, such as educational courses and leadership/mentoring trainings, to targeted groups of men and youth.

- Grantees provided **226** ongoing community organizing activities.
  - The most common types of ongoing activities provided were leadership/mentorship trainings (**42%**) and educational courses (**32%**).
- Grantees provided these ongoing activities to **15,252** people.
  - Grantees most frequently reached elementary, middle, high school, and university students (**42%**); unaffiliated adult community members (**22%**); and culturally specific community group members, both youth and adults (**19%**), through these ongoing activities.

## Public Education/Awareness Campaigns

Grantees create public education campaigns encouraging men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent domestic/sexual violence.

- **14** (25%) grantees used funds for public education/awareness campaigns.
- Grantees provided a total of **237** public education/awareness campaigns.
- Grantees most frequently supported online social media (**19%**), print materials (**18%**), and media articles/opinion editorials (**12%**).

## Services for Child Victims, Children Indirectly Exposed, and their Non-Abusing Parents/Caregivers

Child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence need comprehensive support services that meet a wide array of needs to help them become and remain safe from violence.

- **27** (48%) grantees used funds for victim services.

## Child Victim Services

Grantees may provide child victims with individual or group counseling services; offer education advocacy with the child's school; assist the child and accompanying parent or caregiver in obtaining a protection order; and provide safety planning, court accompaniment, shelter, and/or transportation.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,027** child victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of child victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:**

- Child advocacy services to **642** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **486** victims; and
- Crisis intervention services to **369** victims.

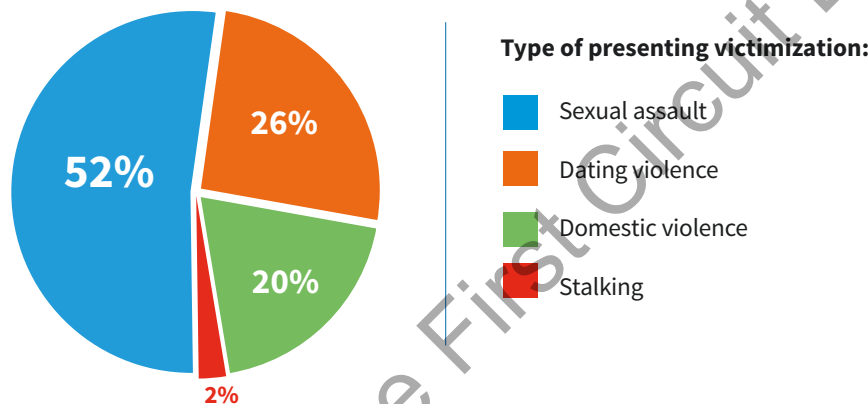
### Child Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve child victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **sexual assault** (52%).

**Figure 1** | Provision of child victim services by CY Program grantees, by type of victimization

**Child victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**Table 2** | Child victims seeking services with CY grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Child victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total child victims seeking services</b>	<b>1,033</b>	
Child victims served	<b>934</b>	<b>90%</b>
Child victims partially served	<b>93</b>	<b>9%</b>
Child victims not served	<b>6</b>	<b>1%</b>

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant.



**NC • Grantee Perspective**

The CEV program funding allowed for new school-based partnerships to be developed which subsequently led to teacher training on the signs and symptoms of children exposed to violence. This in turn led to an increase in referrals of students in need of crisis intervention, treatment, parent support, and referral. Funding also allowed for new programming partnerships with the culturally-based center with the addition and enhancement of after school programming and specialized summer enrichment programs. The CEV program funds also allowed for a continued strengthening of the relationship with child protective services, including an understanding of the legal parameters of CPS and the assistance that can be given to children exposed to violence.

**30TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLIANCE, NORTH CAROLINA**



**MA • Grantee Perspective**

CEV funding has allowed us to saturate Springfield, MA with prevention workshops. Prior to receiving CEV funding, the YWCA was limited in providing prevention workshops. In providing these workshops we have been able to provide education and dispel myths and untruths that are so common in our community. We have been able to open the doors for our young people to have conversations about their experiences with domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. This has also allowed us to create a foundation of trust with these young people and in turn we have identified many young people who have been victims of violence. We also have been able to streamline our community response to teen dating violence. We have been able to assemble a team of key stakeholders in the community that can work together to both treat and prevent dating violence in their respective systems. We work with representatives from community organizations, the local police, school and the district attorney's office.

**YWCA OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**



**ND • Grantee Perspective**

CY funds have allowed us to update our community strengths and needs assessment, augmenting a collection of prevalence data on domestic, dating, and sexual violence and stalking relating to children and youth, as well as data on young adults, ages 18-24. Through the CYP, we are now able to sustain critically important prevention and intervention initiatives without the interruption of services. Funding to provide therapy for ages 0-24 is a major gap, and 16% of the individuals on our counseling waiting list were between the ages of 18-24. Without CYP funding, we would have had to drastically reduce trauma-informed therapy for children and youth and would not be able to expand our focus to young adults.

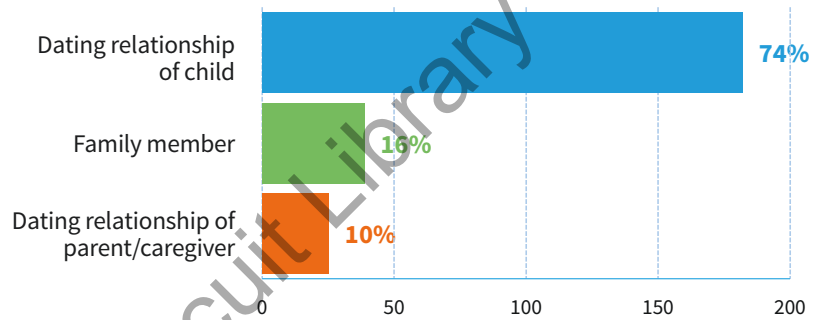
**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER,  
NORTH DAKOTA**

## Child Victims' Relationship to Offender

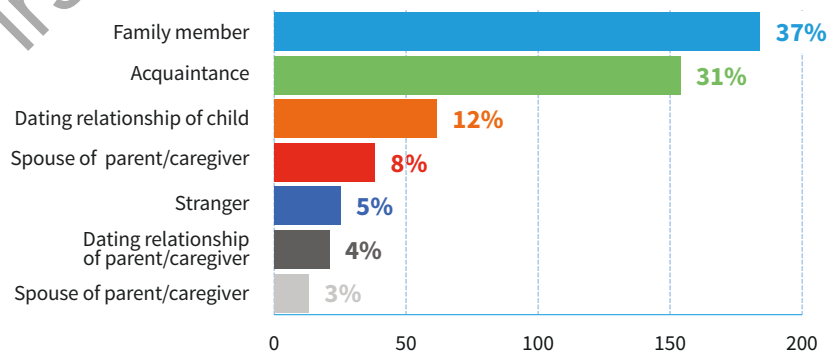
Grantees serve child victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The child victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by a **family member** (35%).
- The remaining child victims were most commonly victimized in the context of the **child's dating relationship** (26%) or by an **acquaintance** (18%).

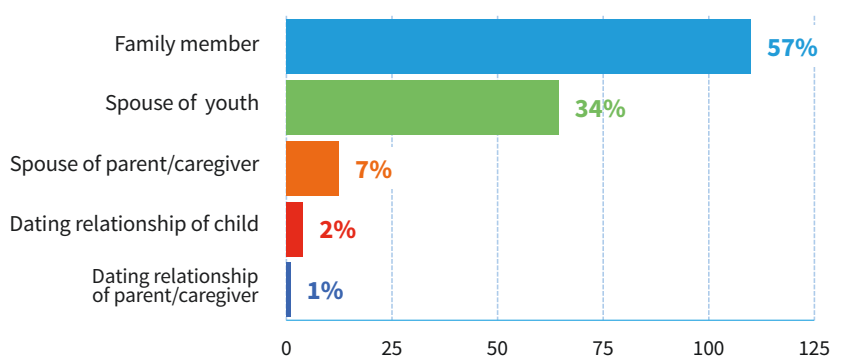
**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Dating violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic violence** (6-month average)



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## Reasons Child Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why child victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements;
- Transportation; or
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for children with mental health issues.

## Services for Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence

Grantees provide a variety of services to children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence, including child advocacy, crisis intervention, and individual or group counseling. Children indirectly exposed to violence may also require assistance with school- and/or health-related issues, transportation needs, and legal issues. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help children become and remain safe from violence.**

- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,259** children indirectly exposed to violence during each 6-month period.
- **97%** of children indirectly exposed to violence who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Child advocacy services to **772** children;
- Support group/counseling services to **518** children;
- Crisis intervention services to **464** children; and
- Education advocacy to **367** children.

## Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence Seeking Services

Grantees serve children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of children served or partially served were indirectly exposed to **domestic violence** (88%).



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The CEV program funding has allowed us to work more closely with the youth in the community, building one-on-one relationships with children who have been exposed to or who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Through this grant we are able to assist children with emergency clothing, hygiene products, and food. It has also allowed us to eliminate homelessness for a couple of children by providing rental assistance to the family.

**KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS**



**FL • Grantee Perspective**

This funding allows Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) to have a prevention educator solely focus on engaging men and boys in Palm Beach County to prevent domestic violence. AVDA's Violence Prevention Educator has been able to maintain existing relationships within the community as well as reach out to other community members specifically around violence against women as a men's issue. This funding gives youth an opportunity to develop public education materials to bring the message to a larger audience as well. Their role in the development of the public education campaign will promote leadership skills and connectedness to their community, in support of the project goal of preventing violence against women and girls.

**FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



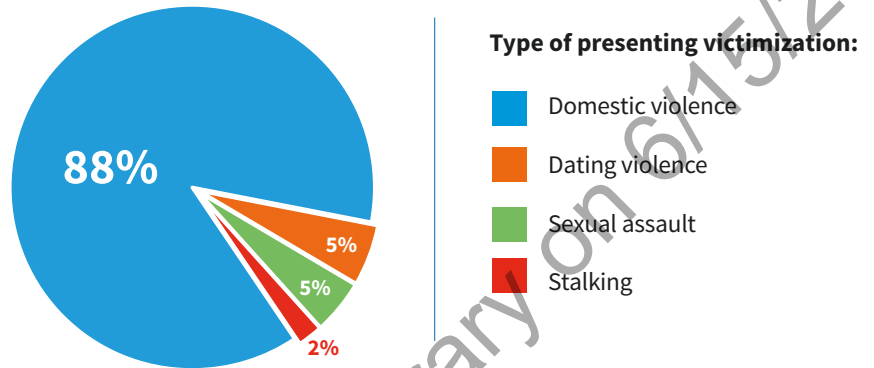
**VT • Grantee Perspective**

The Consolidated Youth funding has allowed Chittenden County organizations the opportunity to work together in new ways. Most notably, this program has allowed us to greatly expand our work with homeless youth; build capacity and direction for a partnering LGBT youth organization to provide victim advocacy and prevention services; provide therapeutic interventions and counseling as a new free service housed at a local rape crisis center; co-create and co-facilitate with law enforcement a sex trafficking task force; and expand prevention work with both younger and older youth.

**HOPE WORKS, VERMONT**

**Figure 5** Provision of services to children indirectly exposed to violence by CY Program grantees, by type of violence

**Children served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**Table 3** Children indirectly exposed to violence seeking services with CY grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Children seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total children seeking services</b>	<b>1,300</b>	
Children served	1,176	90%
Children partially served	84	6%
Children not served	41	3%

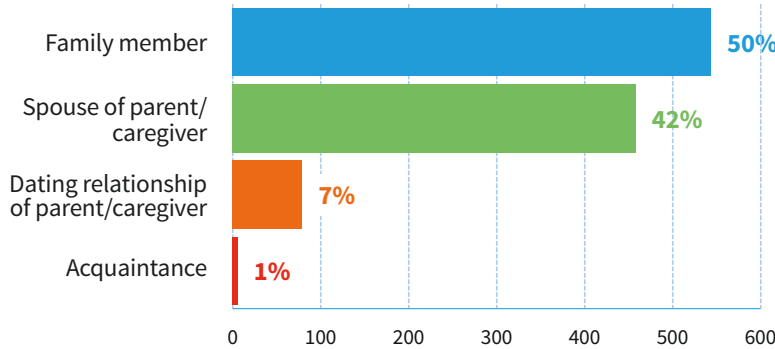
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents children who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant. "Not served" represents children who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant. During the 2-year reporting period, one child was partially served in one of the 6-month reporting periods.

**Indirectly Exposed Children's Relationship to Offender**

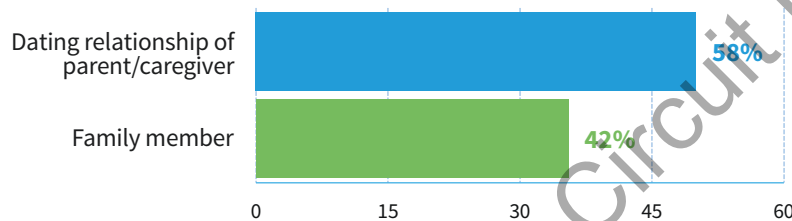
Grantees serve children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The children most frequently served or partially served were indirectly exposed to violence by a **family member** (50%).
- The remaining children were most commonly exposed to violence by a **spouse or intimate partner of a parent/caregiver** (39%) or **dating partner of the parent/caregiver** (10%).

**Figure 6** Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender:  
**Domestic violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 7** Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender:  
**Dating violence** (6-month average)



NOTE: Numbers for relationship to offender were too small to compute for sexual assault and stalking victimizations.



**VT • Grantee Perspective**

Throughout the last year of this grant, the program coordinator was actively engaged in the Youth Advocacy Task Force and the Sexual Violence Task Force. Both are initiatives to share best practices, maintain professional standards, and represent LGBT youth concerns in decision-making on topics like sexual health education standards in Vermont, and the inclusion of consent and sexual violence in those standards. LGBT youth in Vermont rarely have access to comprehensive sexual health information in school settings, so advocacy for increased access to accurate information becomes imperative both to promote healthy sexual relationships and to confer age-appropriate information about consent to all Vermont youth. As a member of the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force, the program coordinator was able to add input to the state’s Technical Assistance Resource Guide, a tool for educators in Vermont to incorporate sexual violence prevention education into health education curriculum.

HOPE WORKS, VERMONT

### Reasons Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why children indirectly exposed to violence were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for children with mental health issues;
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements; or
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources.

### Demographics of Children Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,027** child victims and **1,259** children indirectly exposed to violence during each 6-month period. The child victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (50%), **female** (75%), and between the ages of **13 and 17** (40%). Children indirectly exposed to violence were most frequently **white** (40%), **female** (52%), and between the ages of **0 and 12** (76%).

A recent survey of 1,141 high-risk youth who had been exposed to violence found that at particular points during early adolescence, boys may be at equal risk of experiencing teen dating violence as girls. While the fear caused by victimization seems to impact girls more intensely, these data indicate a need to consider the impacts of teen dating violence across age and gender (Reidy et al., 2016).



#### TX • Grantee Perspective

The CEV funding allowed us to bundle our entire continuum of services into a single programmatic model implemented in a single school district. By bundling our services in a single community, we are able to maximize any potential positive outcomes. Our Student Assistance Programs (SAPs) model is a school-based approach that allows us to offer multiple services managed in a way that allows them to be bundled to meet the specific needs of individual student participants. The higher the need of the student the more services potentially available to the student. Prior to the CEV funding, SafeHaven has never before been able to offer services in such an organized continuum.

SAFEHAVEN OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

**Table 4** Demographic characteristics of children served with CY grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Characteristic	6-month average			
	Child victims		Children indirectly exposed	
	N	%	N	%
<b>Race</b>				
American Indian or Alaska Native	40	4%	79	6%
Asian	22	2%	44	4%
Black or African American	176	19%	275	22%
Hispanic or Latino	236	25%	355	29%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	10	1%	12	1%
White	466	50%	490	40%
Unknown (missing)	99		24	
<b>Gender</b>				
Female	718	75%	633	52%
Male	234	25%	590	48%
Total	1,027		1,259	
Unknown (missing)	75		37	
<b>Age</b>				
0–12	219	22%	935	76%
13–17	395	40%	263	21%
18–24	364	37%	31	3%
Total	1,027		1,259	
Unknown (missing)	75		37	
<b>Other</b>				
Children with disabilities	70	7%	58	5%
Children who are Deaf or hard of hearing	1	< 1%	1	< 1%
Children with limited English proficiency	32	3%	53	4%
Children who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	34	3%	36	3%
Children who live in rural areas	220	21%	577	46%
Children who are homeless/runaways	211	21%	46	4%
Children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex	243	24%	27	2%
Children with mental health issues	185	18%	117	9%

## Support Services and Referrals for Non-Abusing Parents/Caregivers

In addition to services for children, grantees provide support services and referrals to non-abusing parents/caregivers of child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence. Grantees may either provide these services directly, or refer parents to other agencies.

- Grantees provided support services to an average of **470** non-abusing parents/caregivers.
- Grantees provided referrals to an average of **349** non-abusing parents/caregivers.

**During each 6-month period, grantees provided the following services and/or referrals to non-abusing parents/caregivers:**

- Advocacy services;
- Case management services; and
- Support group/counseling services.

## Shelter Services

Grantees provided emergency housing to an average of **67** non-abusing parents/caregivers and **120** accompanying family members for a total of **17,102** bed nights.

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## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees noted that **service providers face additional challenges when working with underserved populations**, particularly:

- English language learners;
- LGBTQ youth;
- Homeless youth;
- African American youth; and
- Immigrant and refugee communities.

Many emphasized the importance of **considering multiple oppressions** when designing programming and services for these populations.



### MN • Grantee Perspective

Ever since the shelter opened as a result of the project in August 2015, it is clear the need is there and even exceeds our current capacity to provide shelter to youth and young adults experiencing dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual violence or stalking. The shelter filled to capacity within a short period of time and remains at full capacity consistently. A common trend we've noticed with young people is that they tend to stay in shelter for much longer periods in order to reach their goals due to their many challenges. We also consistently hear from both young people and other service providers there is a lack of shelter programs who have the capacity to serve young people with multiple victimizations, and particularly those who have experienced sexual exploitation.

TUBMAN, MINNESOTA



### CA • Grantee Perspective

We also continue to face a competition of needs when it comes to supporting victims/survivors. In the South LA community, as in many places, violence against women can very often be overshadowed by other issues that have significant unhealthy and unsafe impacts on community members, such as poverty and systemic racism. As service-providers, it is important for us to identify what the communities who we work with need to feel heard, especially when they do not always see the institutions that are in place as being safe for them to access, such as law enforcement. By working with partners in different collaborations, we can more readily work together to connect risk and protective factors across multiple forms of violence and therefore address a wider range of issues.

PEACE OVER VIOLENCE, CALIFORNIA



### NY • Grantee Perspective

In the broader homeless youth provider community, LGBT specific issues are still widely misunderstood. Being able to provide support to young people who have experienced these traumas is crucial, but also considering their identities within the context of abuse is important. More training for staff outside our agency would be helpful, but even internally - being able to have deeper trainings on trauma, violence prevention, and skills for helping youth avoid future exposure would be helpful.

THE ALI FORNEY CENTER, NEW YORK



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

Too often young people (particularly young men) are bombarded with messages that promote different forms of violence as inevitably normal. While we cannot block and erase these messages, we seek with our programming to make these young men critical consumers and analyzers of the violent messages being aimed at them. These additional survival skills are needed to both avoid and deter violence since what are often lacking are positive visible models of success in avoiding violence or violent situations.

VERA HOUSE, NEW YORK

Grantees expressed a need for **more education and outreach for youth and families, and more training for service providers and those who work with young people**, including:

- Early prevention education for elementary and middle school students;
- Programming for men and boys;
- Information for parents and guardians on healthy relationships, violence prevention, and ways to discuss violence and sexual abuse with their children;
- Training for teachers and school personnel to identify signs of exposure to violence and make appropriate referrals; and
- Strategies for addressing inconsistencies among service providers' understandings of mandated reporting requirements.



#### WA • Grantee Perspective

Accessible mental health services are lacking in our community. Local youth behavioral health surveys, which are distributed to all 8th and 10th graders in the county, point specifically to the need for these services for youth who identify as LGBTQ+ and Native youth. In 2016, the results of this survey showed that 33% of Native youth indicated that they had “seriously considered suicide in the past year.” Similarly, 32% of youth who identify as gay or lesbian and 54% of youth who identify as bisexual report that they have seriously considered suicide, compared to 11% of those who identify as straight.

BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WASHINGTON

Many grantees also mentioned the importance of **meeting the basic needs of young victims**, particularly **secure emergency and long-term affordable housing and mental health services**.



#### FL • Grantee Perspective

Another area of continued need is accessible prevention and awareness training to all facilities and agencies working with children combined with training on indicators, grooming techniques, statistics, prevalence, and reporting requirements. Programs still in need of targeting for provision of CSA training include youth sports programs, programs for children with special needs, church or other after school or summer camp programs.

ORLANDO HEALTH, INC., FLORIDA

Last Viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

The Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking (Culturally Specific Services Program or CSSP) creates a unique opportunity for culturally specific community-based organizations to address the critical needs of victims of domestic/sexual violence in a manner that affirms a victim's culture and effectively addresses language and communication barriers.

**GRANTEES MAY EITHER BE A CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY-BASED program with existing expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence, or a culturally specific community-based program that partners with another organization with expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence.**

## 73 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 73 unique grantees reported activities funded by the CSSP Program.

## 2,886 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 2,886 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 328 Immigration Matters

On average, grantees provided assistance with 328 immigration matters during each 6-month reporting period.

*Latina and African American women who are sexually assaulted may bear an additional burden in seeking support, as they are disproportionately affected by income and asset poverty, and may have limited access to legal, medical, and social support services that may aid in violence prevention and recovery (Loya, 2014; Roschelle, 2017).*

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022



#### PA • Grantee Perspective

With the CSSP funding, Friends of Farmworkers has been able to expand the Voces de Trabajadoras/Voces of Women at Work from the Philadelphia area to the entire state. In order to support that expansion, we hired an attorney who grew up in the same immigrant community she now serves. This increased staffing has vastly expanded the organization's capacity to provide legal services to immigrant survivors. We have been able to help additional survivors who had previously been on a waiting list for immigration legal services.

**FRIENDS OF FARMWORKERS, INC., PENNSYLVANIA**



#### MA • Grantee Perspective

During this reporting period, we have been able to reach and provide support for eleven women who did not feel safe or comfortable enough to receive services from agencies that do not offer culturally specific services. We were able to teach them a cultural approach to healing. Under this funding, we have also been able to create relationships with other DV agencies throughout the state in an effort to create a wider network of support for Native women in crisis.

**NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

CSSP enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting community-based culturally specific projects to address and prevent domestic/sexual violence. Purpose areas include:

- Increase communities' capacity to provide culturally specific resources and support for victims and their families;
- Enhance traditional services to victims through the leadership of culturally specific programs offering services to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Work in cooperation with the community to develop education and prevention strategies highlighting culturally specific issues and resources regarding victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Provide culturally specific resources and services that address the safety, economic, housing, and workplace needs of victims, including emergency assistance;
- Provide culturally specific programs for children exposed to domestic/sexual violence;
- Work with state and local governments and social service agencies to develop and enhance effective strategies to provide culturally specific services to victims;
- Strengthen criminal justice interventions, by providing training for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities on culturally specific responses to domestic/sexual violence; and
- Examine the dynamics of culture and its impact on victimization and healing.

VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons**. VAWA 2013 also modified the focus of CSSP by redefining "culturally specific" to mean primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act ("American Indians [including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts]; Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics"). As of FY 2014, the Underserved Program now focuses on services for Deaf or hard of hearing victims, LGBT victims, and victims from underserved religious/ethnic backgrounds.

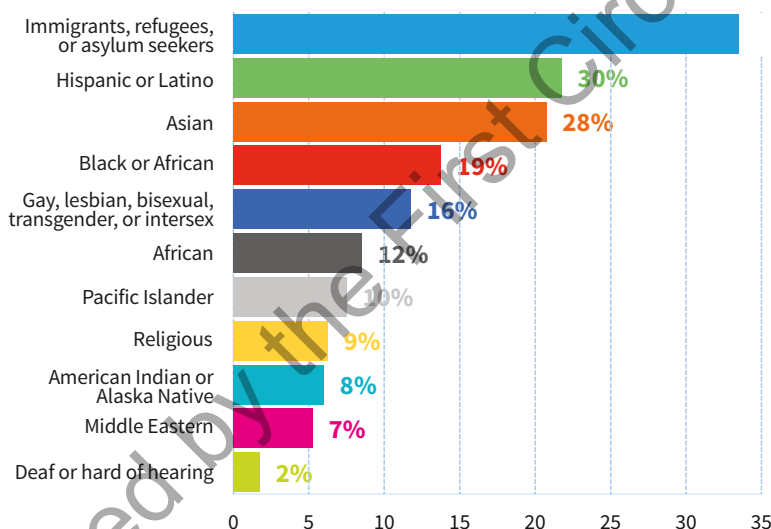


## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **73** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **6** (8%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Enhance traditional services to victims through the leadership of culturally specific programs offering services to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
  - Increase communities' capacity to provide culturally specific resources and support for victims and their families; and
  - Provide culturally and linguistically specific resources and services that address the safety, economic, housing, and workplace needs of victims.

**Figure 1** | Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2015–June 2017 (6-month average)



## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, advocacy, counseling, court and medical accompaniment, and community education to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **73** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **80** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.



### P.R. • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving this funding, Taller Salud had no specific strategy to address gender-based violence. When cases surfaced or disclosures were made, we had to make referrals to mostly distant service providers which we knew lacked cultural competency to understand both the intersections and the healing resources that are particular to our communities in Loiza. This funding has allowed us to hire a full-time senior facilitator who has experience with GBV, support groups, and the use of art for healing. The funding has also allowed us to strengthen our collaboration with the anti-oppression collective ILE and to start important conversations with a selected group of community leaders.

**TALLER SALUD, PUERTO RICO**



### D.C. • Grantee Perspective

CSSP funding has been instrumental in establishing the Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP) as a premier culturally specific service provider. Due to CSSP funding, DVRP has been able to enhance its ability to serve Asian/Pacific Islander survivors of sexual assault. During the course of this grant, DVRP has collaborated with partners such as the DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC), Network for Victim Recovery DC and DC Forensic Nurse Examiners to receive extensive training regarding sexual violence and the legal, medical, and therapeutic services locally available. DVRP has built on that knowledge by adapting the material to cultivate cultural accessibility.

**ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE PROJECT (DVRP), WASHINGTON, D.C.**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

CSSP funding has allowed us for the very first time to hire a full time Education and Outreach Coordinator. Our ability to do outreach at mosques, hospitals, and to service providers was enhanced, and the number of referrals for services started to increase gradually.

**TURNING POINT FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES,  
NEW YORK**



### IA • Grantee Perspective

Educational presentations and events that are targeted towards the Latin@ community have started the conversations that have traditionally been challenging for our community and improved awareness of how violence and sexual assault impact our communities on every level. Contacts within the community and trainings with law enforcement have improved the perception of law enforcement in our community, which has been a benefit to victims and has increased reports, protective orders, and reporting of violations of protective orders. Program staff see the results of the investment of CSSP funding with each of the clients we come into contact with.

**LATINAS UNIDAS POR UN NUEVO AMANECER, IOWA**



### ME • Grantee Perspective

CSSP funding has enabled us to create public awareness through community education for the refugee and immigrant communities thus allowing more victims to seek services and creating safer communities and healthier communities.

**UNITED SOMALI WOMEN OF MAINE**

**Table 1** | Staff supported with CSSP grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>80</b>	
Victim advocates	18	23%
Program coordinators	17	21%
Administrators	9	11%
Outreach workers	9	11%
Trainers	9	11%
Counselors	8	10%

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only ( $\geq 5\%$ ).

## Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **64** (88%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **973** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **18,404** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**13%**), health professionals (**13%**), law enforcement officers (**10%**), and multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**9%**).

## Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community, highlighting culturally specific issues and resources, to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people across cultural differences with a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities, inclusive of all members.<sup>1</sup>**

- **65** (89%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **2,767** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **74,314** people.

<sup>1</sup> Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.

**Table 2** | People educated with CSSP grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

People educated	2-year total	
<b>Total people educated</b>	<b>74,314</b>	
Community members	<b>32,405</b>	<b>46%</b>
Middle/high school students	<b>8,211</b>	<b>11%</b>
Parents/guardians	<b>7,256</b>	<b>10%</b>
University or college students	<b>5,945</b>	<b>8%</b>
Community groups	<b>5,510</b>	<b>7%</b>
Faith-based groups	<b>4,038</b>	<b>5%</b>

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Victim Services

Victims of domestic/sexual violence within diverse cultures experience unique barriers when seeking and utilizing assistance. Culturally competent services for these victims may include providing advocacy and support to those who seek protection orders; accompaniment during medical procedures, such as a sexual assault forensic examination; providing interpretation or translation services; assistance with safety planning; accompaniment to court; shelter and transitional housing assistance; or immigration assistance. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **72** (99%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **2,886** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **1,583** victims;
- Counseling services to **1,279** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **1,118** victims;
- Language services (i.e. interpretation or translation) to **591** victims;
- Transportation services to **515** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **460** victims; and
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **296** victims.



### CA • Grantee Perspective

As a result of the CSSP grant, SAHARA was able to provide over 300 hours of immigration and legal support to survivors, which led to a higher percentage of survivors seeking additional SAHARA services. SAHARA works in partnership with the Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles to provide monthly legal clinics and with the Legal Aid Foundation (LAFLA) to provide pro bono representation for restraining orders and domestic abuse related immigration issues. In addition, SAHARA was able to provide survivors with access to information, housing, education and other necessary culturally sensitive social, and economic supports to make informed decisions that best reflect their needs. SAHARA also addressed cultural isolation by creating partnerships with service providers, first responders, and professionals through outreach, education, training and community engagement. We provided over 300 hours of psychotherapy, more than 400 hours of counseling, and more than 600 hours of case management. As well, we provided six women and children with housing in our Transitional Living Home.

**SOUTH ASIAN HELPLINE AND REFERRAL AGENCY (SAHARA), CALIFORNIA**



### MI • Grantee Perspective

Through our CSSP funding, LA VIDA has been able to enhance our existing victim services to make them more comprehensive. Through the creation of our Financial Empowerment curriculum, we have been able to provide a culturally specific class that provides information fit to our unique community. Apart from the class, we provide financial advocacy by helping clients review their credit reports, assisting in writing and enhancing resumes, and we have even been a support for women who are in unhealthy work environments.

**CHASS CENTER/ LA VIDA PARTNERSHIP, MICHIGAN**

**Grantees used 22 specific languages for these activities:**

*Acholi, Arabic, ASL, Creole, English, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Korean, Lingala, Mai Mai, Nepali, Portuguese, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish, Sudan Arabic, Tamil*

**Grantees used 52 specific languages when responding to these requests for information or assistance:**

*Acholi, Arabic, ASL, Bangla, Bangladeshi, Bengali, Burmese, Cantonese, Chinese, Creole, English, Farsi, Filipino, French, Gambian, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Kannada, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Korean, Lao, Lingala, Mai Mai, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi, Mongolian, Moroccan, Nepali, Pakistani, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Sudan Arabic, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Telegu, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish*



**NY • Grantee Perspective**

In the last year, Shalom Task Force used CSSP funds to improve our hotline functioning. We updated and computerized our extensive domestic violence hotline manual. STF staff vetted and included many new entries which our volunteer advocates are now using to offer culturally appropriate referrals to victims, secondary victims, and professionals.

**SHALOM TASK FORCE, NEW YORK**



**IA • Grantee Perspective**

Culturally Specific Services Program funding has allowed for consistent services to be accessible by members of the community. Services and information are now available, as is the 24 hour crisis line, for members of our community who previously had limited access to resources in their native language.

**LATINAS UNIDAS POR UN NUEVO AMANECER, IOWA**

**Other services:**

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **7,111** times;
- Grantees received a total of **19,142** hotline calls; and
  - Nearly half of these calls (**49%**) came from victims.

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided assistance with the following immigration matters:**

- U visa services for **121** victims;
- Other immigration matters for **68** victims;
- VAWA self-petition services for **59** victims;
- Work authorization services for **47** victims;
- Cancellation of removal matters for **25** victims; and
- T visa services for **9** victims.

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

**Table 3** Victims sheltered with CSSP grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4,532</b>
Transitional housing	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,016</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5,548</b>

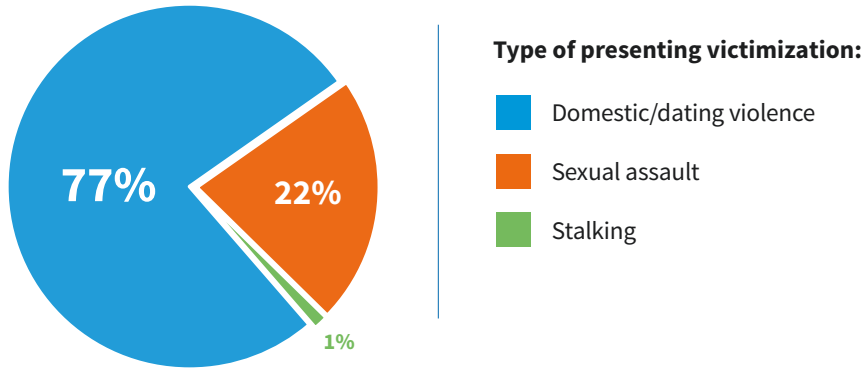
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (77%).

**Figure 2** | Provision of victim services by CSSP grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**Table 4** | Victims seeking services with CSSP grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>2,907</b>	
Victims served	2,729	94%
Victims partially served	158	5%
Victims not served	21	1%

**NOTE:** “Partially served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CSSP grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CSSP grant.



**MA • Grantee Perspective**

The CSSP remains a critical funding source for the sustainability of our Community Based Advocacy Services Program. The grant funds two advocates, one who speaks Vietnamese and one who speaks Mandarin and Cantonese. Located in and serving the Greater Boston area, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) is easily accessible to Chinatown and the Chinese population, and near Dorchester, the hub of the Vietnamese population. We are the only DV agency serving this Chinese and Vietnamese population with culturally/linguistically matched advocates. Due to OVW funding we have rooted in both communities, becoming a recognized service provider and referral source for LEP Asian victims of violence. ATASK receives a significant amount of Chinese and Vietnamese victim referrals and serves over 300 Asian victims/survivors each year within the Chinese and Vietnamese community. The Chinese and Vietnamese clients are often non-English speaking and heavily rely on their advocate to link them to services and communicate to providers.

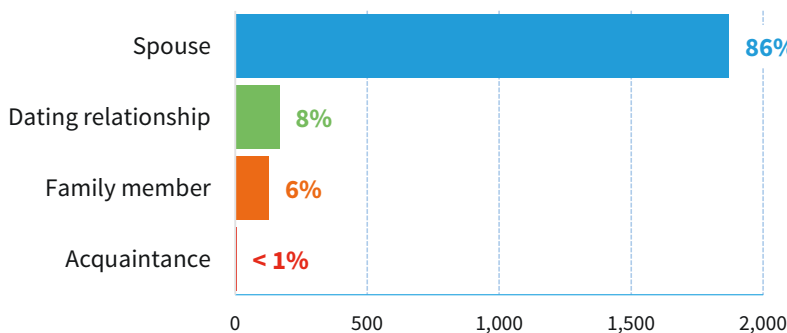
**ASIAN TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Victims’ Relationship to Offender**

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (76%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (8%) or by another **family or household member** (8%).

**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)



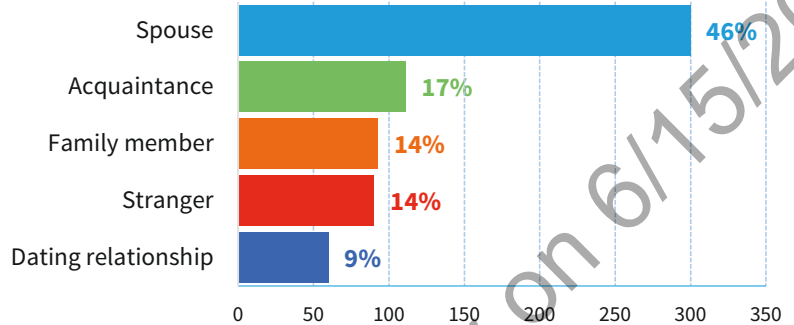


**MN • Grantee Perspective**

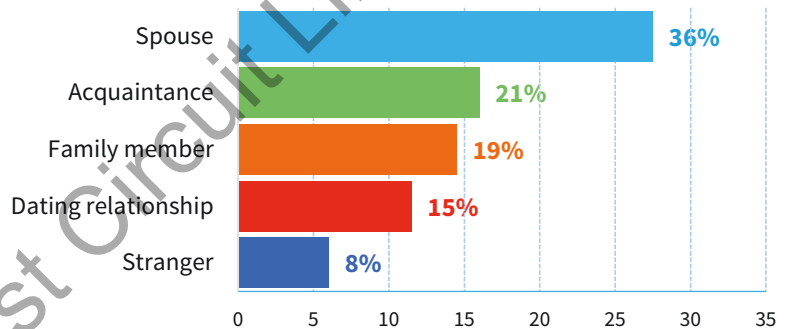
This funding has allowed Cultural Wellness Center to move toward re-establishing African American culture as a healing resource for victims/survivors of domestic violence and articulating a cultural foundation for meeting their needs with multifaceted resources. The work and conversations that have occurred through these funds have illuminated a need for deeper connection between skilled domestic violence navigators and the African American community. The intervention offered by CWC recognizes that the current mainstream systems are inadvertently creating isolation and moving the survivor away from the family and larger community setting. In order to eliminate the barriers to service, forms of relief generated within the family and community context are essential. Culturally meaningful paths include: self-study, group learning, one-on-one sessions, elder mentoring, and coaching. This means that participants come out of the crisis with stronger interpersonal relationships, greater knowledge, and a broader network of support than before, all of which are protective factors and reduce the likelihood of future harm. Finally, more participants are able to share the barriers they experience with the service providers through training and consultation, which leads to changes in organizations and more accessible and relevant services for African Americans.

**CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER, MINNESOTA**

**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



**Figure 5** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



**Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served**

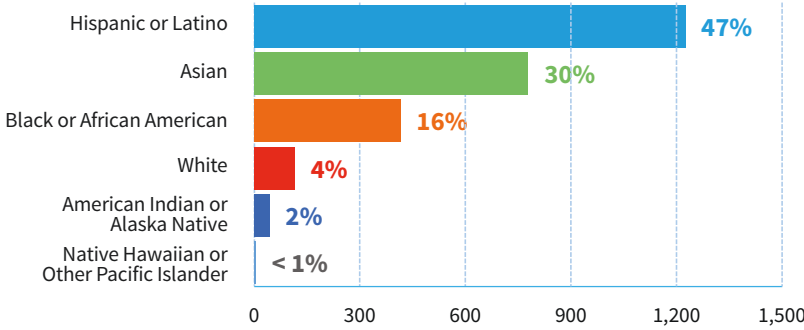
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Transportation;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Lack of child care; or
- Services were not appropriate for victims with mental health issues.

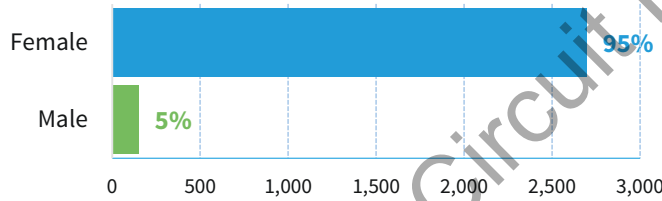
**Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served**

Grantees served or partially served an average of **2,886** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (47%), **female** (95%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (79%).

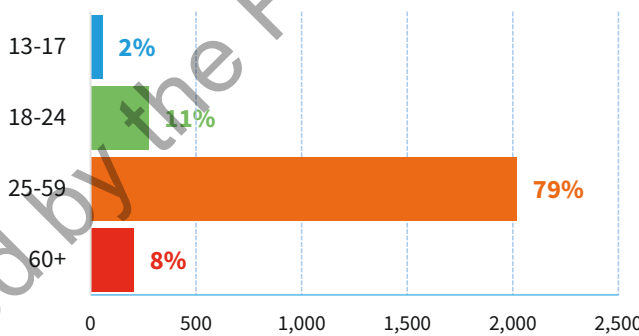
**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



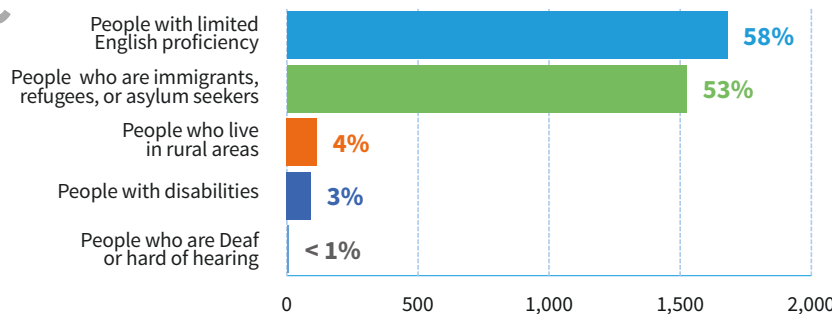
**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 9** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



**IL • Grantee Perspective**

CSSP funding enabled KAN-WIN to hire a peer-assisted learning (PAL) coordinator who can speak Korean fluently to communicate actively with local Korean media and community members whose first language is Korean. The staff is responsible for reaching out to the Asian community to train and educate peer advocate leaders who can be a bridge from victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to service organizations. The CSSP-funded staff is able to identify key community-based organizations in the Asian immigrant community and make a networking effort regularly to provide education on domestic violence and sexual assault. There are many families in which the kids can only speak in English while parents cannot. So, KAN-WIN tried to encourage the PAL trainees to lead their children to participate in the Youth PAL program to help them communicate more openly about issues like dating violence and sexual assault. PALs were also able to identify abuse in their friends' and family members' lives and provide referrals to KAN-WIN.

**KAN-WIN, ILLINOIS**

*A recent study using NISVS data found that the majority of survivors of IPV sought help; however, the survivors' demographic characteristics impacted their help-seeking behaviors in significant ways. Black survivors sought informal help rather than accessing formal supports more often than white survivors. The same was true for foreign-born survivors, who relied on informal supports like religion and elders more often than their US-born counterparts. Understanding these differences in help-seeking behavior is critical to providing culturally relevant and effective responses to domestic/sexual violence in these communities (Cho et al., 2017).*



### NY • Grantee Perspective

At large, the topic of sexual violence is even less openly discussed due to the intersections of cultural and social constructs deeply rooted in the Asian culture. Patriarchy and collectivism contribute to the stigma of sharing family conflict and troubles outside of the family. Members of the Asian community, particularly victims of sexual violence, have internalized these constructs, which affect victims seeking appropriate help. Moreover, the importance of maintaining a reputable image to others may limit Asian victims' accessing of help for sexual violence related issues.

**THE KOREAN-AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTER, INC., NEW YORK**



### ME • Grantee Perspective

Access to language makes a big difference. Victims need to advocate on their behalf and be able to communicate with service providers. Service providers need to have an LEP policy in place that helps staff understand what the protocol is when providing services to limited English proficiency populations. Staff must be trained on how to use interpreters. Staff must know the difference between an interpreter and a cultural broker.

**UNITED SOMALI WOMEN OF MAINE**



### MS • Grantee Perspective

Bilingual and bicultural mental health providers are needed with formal education and training on trauma. Training focused on models designed specifically to treat trauma-related symptoms, trauma-related disorders, and specific disorders of traumatic stress are the most significant area of need as revealed by clients and families dealing with domestic violence and the relationship to mental stressors, fear of deportation, PTSD, acculturation adjustments, language and familial problems. Mainstream professional counselors and agencies are overloaded with the needs presented in the mainstream groups, thus their energy and interest in reaching minority groups is overlooked.

**HAND IN HAND MULTICULTURAL CENTER, MISSOURI**

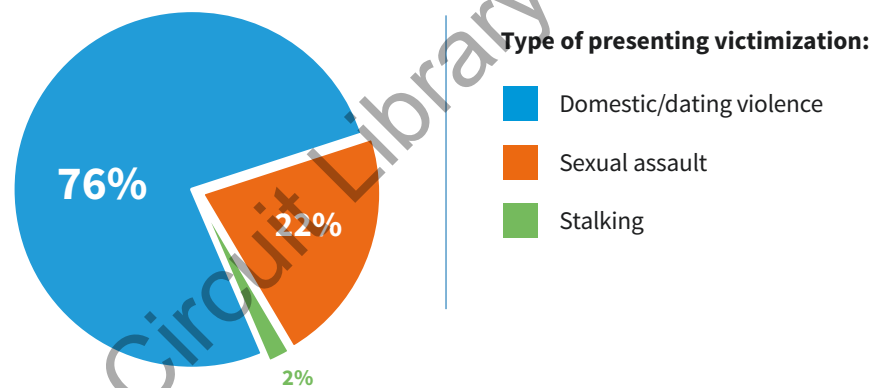
## Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic/sexual violence, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **833** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

**Figure 10** Provision of services to secondary victims by CSSP grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Secondary victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees felt that more **community education and outreach was needed in the cultural communities in which they worked** in order to:

- Combat cultural taboos discouraging open discussion of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Challenge longstanding cultural beliefs that shame and stigmatize victims;
- Educate young people about healthy relationships;
- Promote available services; and
- Encourage victims to come forward.

Many grantees **proposed incorporating community education and outreach about domestic violence and sexual assault into religious services** in order to more **effectively reach victims within their communities**, and to **combat harmful stereotypes** around sexual assault and domestic violence.



Grantees frequently cited **insufficient access to qualified interpreters and a lack of translation services** as serious barriers to victims receiving the help they needed. The inability to understand and be understood by law enforcement, service providers, and court personnel **discouraged victims from seeking assistance, and sometimes put them in danger.**

Grantees also reported a need for more **culturally and linguistically appropriate victim services**, especially:

- Mental health services; and
- Civil legal services.

Grantees stated that **immigrant and refugee victims often faced highly complex legal issues** due to their immigration status and cultural background, and **victims from marginalized groups struggled with cultural and social isolation and long histories of trauma** in addition to their experiences with domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Grantees also emphasized the need to provide **training to law enforcement, first responders, courts, and service providers on culturally-sensitive, trauma-informed practices, especially within marginalized communities.**

Grantees often struggled to **help victims meet basic needs**, especially:

- Emergency, transitional, and long-term housing;
- Transportation;
- Employment; and
- Child care.

Finally, grantees noted that a **number of groups remain underserved**, including:

- Undocumented immigrants;
- LGBTQ victims;
- Male victims;
- Victims in rural areas; and
- Victims of abuse in later life.

Whether because of **isolation, difficulty ensuring anonymity, fear of reporting due to immigration status, or lack of knowledge of available services**, grantees reported difficulty in adequately serving these populations.



#### MN • Grantee Perspective

The most significant areas of need for American Indian victims/survivors is a lack of American Indian-specific resources and services throughout the region. American Indian victims/survivors have limited access to culturally-specific emergency shelter, as the American Indian Community Housing Organization's ten bed shelter is the only provider in Northeast Minnesota with culturally specific supports. To improve services and resources, the wider community needs a deeper understanding of dual citizenship and what it means to be a citizen of a Tribal sovereign nation and an American citizen. Local providers need an understanding of regional Tribal governments, services and resources, justice and law enforcement systems, and specific Tribal and Band history. Service providers miss opportunities to coordinate services and meet American Indian victim/survivor needs without this understanding and without developed relationships with Tribal partners. With high transition of families and individuals on and off reservation, these relationships and partnerships are critical in advocating for victim safety and offender accountability.

**AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY HOUSING ORGANIZATION, MINNESOTA**



#### OR • Grantee Perspective

A major barrier for DV survivors is access to safe affordable housing. In the African American community this lack of access is compounded by poor credit, low socioeconomic status, racism and oppression. The very limited space in DV shelters often leave survivors with a choice of homelessness or remaining with the abuser. The housing market in Portland has gained national notoriety for the quickly escalating prices, with a two-bedroom apartment reaching \$1,800 a month, and with the tenant having to make three times the income to cover these escalating rental rates. Adequate income is a crucial issue for survivors trying to get back on their feet; many DV survivors often lacked control over their finances and need to learn budgeting, financial planning, and other skills to support economic empowerment.

**SELF ENHANCEMENT, INC., OREGON**

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Grant Program

The Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Grant Program (Disability Program) recognizes the need to focus on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against individuals who are Deaf and/or disabled.

**THESE CHALLENGES SIGNIFICANTLY COMPOUND PROBLEMS FACING** those seeking support to end the violence in their lives. They also complicate the criminal justice system's ability to investigate and prosecute cases, and create difficulties for victim service providers to assist victims.

## 41 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 41 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Disability Program.

## 10,205 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 10,205 people.

## 58 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 58 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

The Disability Program enhances the safety of victims of domestic/sexual violence by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes against individuals with disabilities.

*People with disabilities may be even more susceptible to domestic/sexual violence, due to key risk factors, such as lower socioeconomic status (e.g., more poverty, less education and income), increased isolation, and increased dependency on others (Hahn et al., 2014).*

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022



### OH • Grantee Perspective

Since receiving its first OWW grant in 2007, Project CARE has been operating as a strong cross-sector program that addresses the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking against individuals with disabilities. CARE has improved the policies, practices, organizational culture, and service delivery to survivors with disabilities. Furthermore, CARE has designed and implemented screening for abuse against individuals with disabilities, developed accessible safety plans for survivors with disabilities, and trained individuals with intellectual disabilities on healthy relationships, risk-reduction, and violence prevention education.

**YWCA OF GREATER CINCINNATI, OHIO**



### SD • Grantee Perspective

During this reporting period alone, we have continued increasing our knowledge across disabilities, sexual assault, and domestic violence; toured two crisis shelters separated by nearly 200 miles; learned about independent living center resources and programs that serve nearly half of South Dakota; begun to conduct safety and access reviews of our collaboration agencies; begun to develop training at the intersection of sexual assault, disabilities, and deafness; attended awareness activities for Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Awareness Day and Disability Awareness Day; become more aware of policies and legislation that affect sexual assault and disability work; developed resources to expand cross-disciplinary referrals; and begun to engage member agency programs in increasing safety and accessibility in their daily work.

**SOUTH DAKOTA NETWORK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**



### OH • Grantee Perspective

With the Disability Program funding, we are able to provide direct advocacy services via the community outreach specialist/Deaf advocate. Previously, we were not able to provide the necessary community education to promote engagement and community buy-in to support the victims. Now that the training is complete and new staff has been on-boarded, we are having greater outreach within the Deaf community.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, OHIO**

## Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Provide personnel, training, technical assistance, advocacy, intervention, risk reduction, treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance;
- Conduct outreach activities to ensure that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate assistance;
- Conduct cross-training for victim service organizations about risk reduction, intervention, and prevention;
- Provide technical assistance to help with modifications to policies, protocols, and procedures to ensure equal access to services;
- Provide training and technical assistance on the requirements of shelters and victim services organizations under federal anti-discrimination laws;
- Modify facilities, purchase equipment, and fund personnel so that shelters and victim service organizations can accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities;
- Provide advocacy and intervention services for individuals with disabilities; and
- Develop model programs providing advocacy and intervention services within organizations.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **41** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- No grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.

Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:

- Provide personnel, training, technical assistance, advocacy, intervention, risk reduction, treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance;
- Conduct cross-training for victim service organizations about risk reduction, intervention, and prevention; and
- Develop model programs providing advocacy and intervention services.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, consultation, and information to service providers about responding to violence against women with disabilities. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **41** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **45** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and administrators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Disability grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:  
**Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>45</b>	
Program coordinators	24	53%
Administrators	6	13%
Disability advocates	5	11%
Victim advocates	4	9%

## Training

Grantees train professionals in the service-delivery system to respond more effectively to victims with disabilities by providing information on the unique needs of these individuals and the special challenges they face when they become victims of violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **24** (59%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **302** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **10,205** people.
- Most often these trainings reached disability organization staff (**23%**), domestic violence program staff (**17%**), and sexual assault program staff (**11%**).



### WA • Grantee Perspective

Without funding from the Disability Program, it would not be possible for the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence (formerly the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence) to dedicate a full-time staff person to lead the Domestic Violence and Mental Health Collaboration Project, and it would not have been possible for us to create the transformational changes that we have been able to make through this project. Work group members shared that having a full-time project manager has helped with the continuity of the project and the sustainability of our initiatives over time, even as staff at the partner agencies have changed. We are very grateful that we have been entrusted with these resources and are able to make a critical difference.

**COALITION ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, WASHINGTON**



### KY • Grantee Perspective

This grant has allowed the MOU partners to receive 163 hours of webinar trainings that they would not have been exposed to but for this grant. The MOU partners were able to participate in a Vera Immersion Training in Kansas City which provided not only significant education but the opportunity to network with other OWW-funded grantees. This immersion training also provided the opportunity to visit both a DV Shelter and a Disability organization both of which were prior grantees of this grant program.

**MOUNTAIN COMPREHENSIVE CARE CENTER, KENTUCKY**



### MI • Grantee Perspective

With Disability Program funding we were able to provide training to dual victim service agencies across the state on physical, attitudinal, and programmatic barriers to accessibility of services for individuals with multiple disabilities. This training increased advocates' confidence, which will benefit survivors with multiple disabilities seeking and receiving services.

**MICHIGAN COALITION TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



### TX • Grantee Perspective

The program has allowed us to conduct outreach to and engagement of the Deaf community through social media, and will allow us to develop productions in American Sign Language to educate, inform, and increase community dialogue on topics related to community accountability and supporting Deaf sexual/domestic violence survivors.

**TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVAL CENTER, TEXAS**



### WA • Grantee Perspective

The Alliance was able to produce two statewide conferences, an online classroom, two videos, a resource booklet, and several trainings and presentations. We also developed tools that organizations can use to audit their policies for improvements in universal design, accommodation provision, trauma-informed advocacy provision, confidentiality, and navigation of advocacy barriers specific to long-term care. The Alliance increased its own awareness of issues intersectional with disability, long-term care, and sexual violence, and was subsequently able to bolster the technical assistance it provided to disability, long-term care, and sexual assault advocates who can reach survivors of sexual violence in long-term care settings. The Alliance was able to build ties to advocates throughout the state who are interested in working on these issues going forward.

**DISABILITY RIGHTS WASHINGTON**



### OH • Grantee Perspective

Since 2013, Project CARE has directly served more than 2,770 survivors with disabilities experiencing domestic or sexual violence in Hamilton County. Project CARE has also provided technical assistance, training, and tools to over 28 organizations nationally. Survivors who receive services from any of Project CARE's partner agencies are getting the same trauma-informed and accessible message.

**YWCA OF GREATER CINCINNATI, OHIO**

## Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**<sup>i</sup>

- **13** (32%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **299** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **3,371** people.

Table 2   People educated with Disability grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: Selected groups		
People educated	2-year total	
<b>Total people educated</b>	<b>3,371</b>	
Deaf individuals	<b>1,461</b>	<b>43%</b>
Parents/guardians of individuals with disabilities	<b>1,107</b>	<b>33%</b>
People with disabilities	<b>523</b>	<b>16%</b>
Community groups	<b>228</b>	<b>7%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Technical Assistance

In addition to training, grantees provide technical assistance to service providers to enable them to improve services to individuals with disabilities who are victims of domestic/sexual violence. Technical assistance may be provided through site visits, consultations, information responses, referrals, or other collaboration, and may include guidance on collaboration and cross-training for responding to victims with disabilities; responding to violence against women with mental illness; accessible communication (ASL interpreters/communication devices); and managing disclosure, confidentiality, and safety.

- **18** (44%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of **1,353** technical assistance activities.

<sup>i</sup> Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve their response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- 5 (12%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **58** victims during each 6-month period.
- **96%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Counseling/support group services to **53** victims;
- Peer support services to **40** victims;
- Victim advocacy services to **25** victims;
- Crisis intervention to **22** victims;
- Case management to **11** victims;
- Personal planning to **9** victims; and
- Employment services to **2** victims.

### Other services:

- Grantees received a total of **7** hotline calls; and
  - **100%** of these calls came from victims.

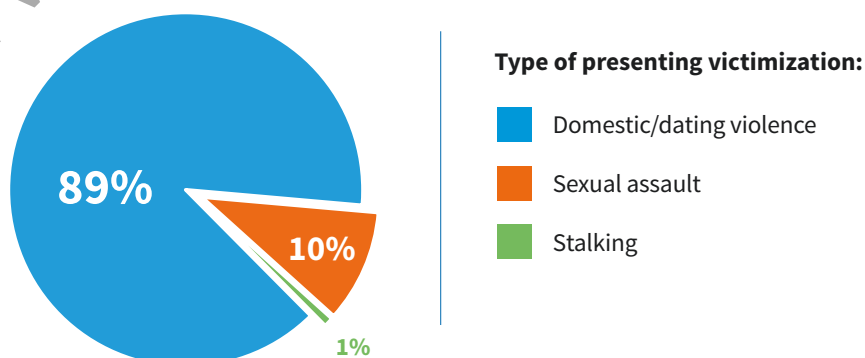
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (89%).

**Figure 1** | Provision of victim services by Disability Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



### FL • Grantee Perspective

The funding has allowed us to convene the important stakeholders in our community both in the DV/SA arena and the Disability arena in order to evaluate current services, identify gaps, and create a strategic plan. This community has never had the funding necessary to convene all of the important players so that this much-neglected issue, the intersection of DV/SA and disability, can be addressed.

**DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE GROUP, INC., FLORIDA**



### PA • Grantee Perspective

This grant has allowed our partnership to collaborate at the state level to address individuals with complex communication needs as an unserved population. We have the opportunity to meet and learn from each other the most effective ways to address gaps in services and learn about the dynamics that create barriers for survivors to access services. The project has strengthened relationships and collaboration outside of this project. Additionally, we are able to engage individuals with complex communication needs in how best to provide services to survivors. Including the voices of the individuals that this project is intended to benefit is critical, and taking the time to craft focus group and survey questions to address their needs has been beneficial. This grant funds five statewide agencies to participate in a project that they would not otherwise have the opportunity to come together to spend time on.

**PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST RAPE**

*Men with disabilities are more likely than those without disabilities to report having been victimized by sexual violence during their lifetimes (Mitra et al., 2016).*



**TX • Grantee Perspective**

The Disability Program funding has allowed us to develop a safety planning guide for people with disabilities living in staffed institutional settings. Traditional safety planning protocols are simply not effective in working with individuals living in staffed settings where choice/decision-making can be very limited and where staff are significantly involved in the person’s everyday life. This is an especially critical need when a person with very limited social skills is planning to transition from an institutional setting to a smaller and less restrictive community residence.

**TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVAL CENTER, TEXAS**



**MN • Grantee Perspective**

Disability Program funding continues to advance the relationship between The Arc and the Sexual Violence Center (SVC). With this funding we have learned what the strengths and gaps are in both organizations and how together we can better serve victims/survivors with I/DD. This funding has been critical to creating sustainable organizational change. We have appreciated having the technical assistance representatives from the Vera Institute of Justice to provide us with insight and feedback as we moved into implementation of our strategic plan. We created six trainings as well as a safety plan tool which will develop and enhance staff and volunteer skills and abilities at both organizations to better support persons with I/DD who experience sexual violence. Sustainability has been a focus of the collaboration from the beginning; both agencies are committed to making the initiatives sustainable beyond the grant period.

**THE ARC GREATER TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA**

Total victims seeking services		
		<b>61</b>

Victims served	<b>56</b>	<b>92%</b>
Victims partially served	<b>3</b>	<b>4%</b>
Victims not served	<b>3</b>	<b>4%</b>

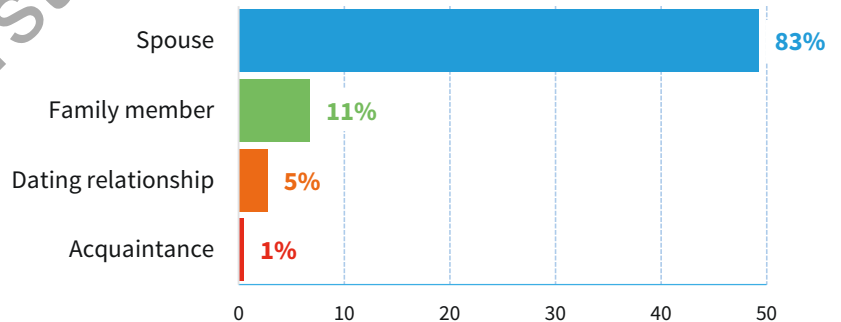
**NOTE:** “Partially served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Disability Program grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Disability Program grant.

### Victims’ Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (79%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **family or household member** (11%), or in the context of a **dating relationship** (4%).

**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic violence** (6-month average)



**NOTE:** Numbers for relationship to offender were too small to compute for sexual assault victimization.

### Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

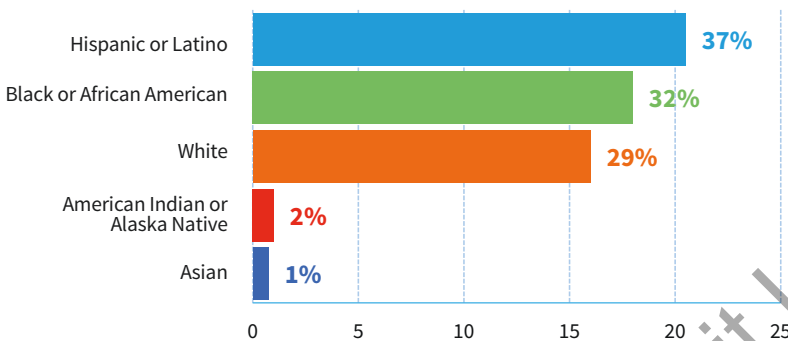
- Services were inappropriate or inadequate for victims with substance abuse issues;
- Hours of operation;
- Services were inappropriate or inadequate for victims who are Deaf or hard of hearing;
- Transportation; or
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements.



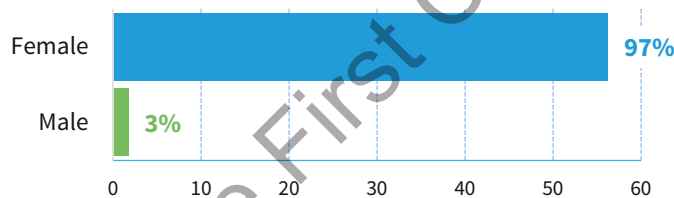
## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **58** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (37%), **female** (97%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (82%).

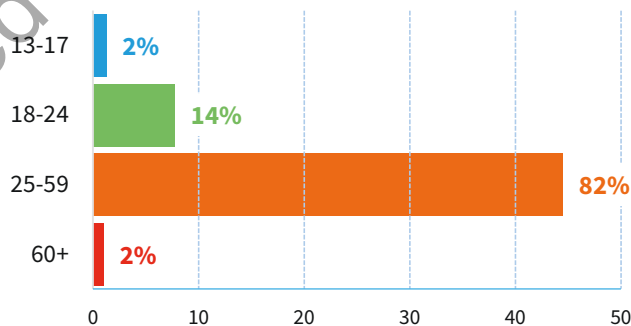
**Figure 3** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



**Figure 4** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 5** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



### NJ • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving this funding, Middlesex L.E.A.D.S. (Listen, Educate, Advocate and Demand Safety), was not able to dedicate time or money to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment. With the support of OWW and the Vera Institute of Justice, we were able to hear first-hand from the people we serve. By participating in the needs assessment process, our clients and consumers have provided us with invaluable information and insight. In turn, we hope to use their contributions to make our services safer and more accessible going forward.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CENTER FOR EMPOWERMENT, NEW JERSEY



### NC • Grantee Perspective

The most important area the Disability Program funding has allowed us to focus on is building community relationships that we would not otherwise have had the time, staff, or resources to cultivate. Through this collaborative effort, we have updated our websites to include referral information for the other collaborating agencies. The collaborative partners also developed a statement of values for working with clients/members and implemented this across multiple areas in the agencies (on websites, in performance evaluations, and in job descriptions) to incorporate it as an agency-wide value and part of the agencies' cultures.

RESOURCE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, NORTH CAROLINA



### NY • Grantee Perspective

The Safety and Accessibility Review provided us with a unique opportunity to first-hand review our organizations through the lens of the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. It allowed us to pay attention to the rights of people with disabilities and how beneficial it is to us as a whole society to utilize the universal design concept. Without the funds from OWW, our organizations would never have been able to do this thorough examination of our organizations and our service provision.

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM, INC., NEW YORK

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### TX • Grantee Perspective

We have been able to engage in curriculum development and in forming and convening advisory committees and work groups focused on improving services and cultural awareness to all community members. We have been able to focus in particular on people with disabilities, people who are Deaf, and Black/African-American and LGBTQIA community members.

TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER, TEXAS



### WI • Grantee Perspective

Both Domestic Violence programs and Sexual Assault programs struggle with supporting and advocating for people with disabilities, especially those with psychiatric disabilities and developmental disabilities. DV/SA programs find themselves often as a last resort stop for victims/survivors when they are seeking out safety and services. Program staff feel overworked, undereducated, and limited in resource choices. This often leaves victims, especially victims with disabilities, feeling unwelcome and unable to access the help they need. Of course this is not the case for all DV/SA programs but the fact that accessible, responsive services and support to victims/survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors are not consistent statewide demonstrates the need for continued work at the intersection of disabilities and interpersonal violence.

DISABILITY RIGHTS WISCONSIN

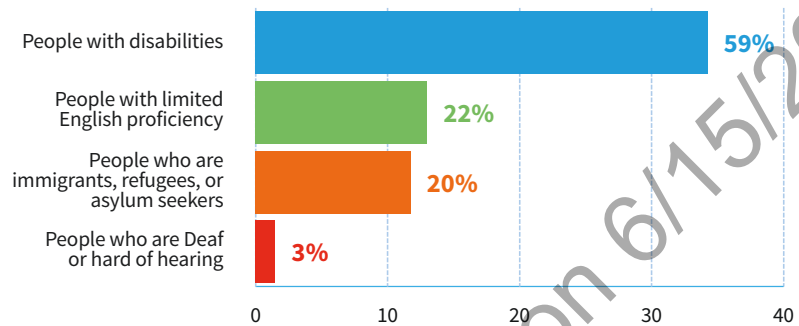


### IL • Grantee Perspective

Lack of education and knowledge regarding healthy relationships, sexuality and sexual violence is an issue statewide. Rape crisis centers and self-advocates have partnered with disability organizations and schools to address this need, but there is much more work to be done. We hear too often from self-advocates about never having the opportunity to learn about their bodies or intimate relationships resulting in a tremendous risk. Family members and service providers may be uncomfortable with the topic or want to discourage any interest in intimate relationships, especially for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees noted that **service providers and victim advocates need specialized training and technical assistance to better serve victims with disabilities**, including the ability to:

- Understand and accommodate the communication needs of Deaf and hard of hearing victims;
- Understand patterns of abuse in care settings;
- Communicate with individuals with cognitive disabilities;
- Provide better accessibility for victims with physical disabilities;
- Work with victims with severe mental illness and/or substance abuse; and
- Collaborate with adult guardians in order to provide care to victims.

Without the proper tools to serve victims with disabilities, grantees felt that victims with disabilities **would hesitate to report** abuse and therefore put themselves in further danger.

Grantees also pointed to the need for more **community education and outreach to victims with disabilities, caretakers, and community members**, including:

- Creating awareness of available DV/SA services for people with disabilities;
- Educating the community about violence against people with disabilities;
- Combating social stigmas and discrimination against people with disabilities, which prevent victims from getting the help they need; and
- Educating people with intellectual disabilities about sex, consent, and healthy relationships.

Noting that disability rights organizations and DV/SA service providers often work in silos, grantees called for **more collaboration between service providers** to serve the unique needs of victims with disabilities, as well as **proper training to service providers and the criminal justice system on:**

- The use of appropriate language and terminology when working with victims with disabilities;
- Accommodating the unique needs of clients with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; and
- Trauma-informed practices for working with victims with disabilities.

Grantees emphasized the importance of **meeting the basic needs of victims with disabilities**, including:

- Safe and accessible shelter and long-term housing;
- Transportation;
- Employment
- Child care; and
- Mental health services.

Grantees reported the **need for community education** in order to:

- Raise awareness about the prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault against people with disabilities; and
- Combat social stigmas and discrimination against people with disabilities, which prevent victims from getting the help they need.

Finally, grantees pointed to the need to **ensure better collaboration between providers** serving victims with disabilities.



#### OR • Grantee Perspective

The criminalization of people with disabilities speaks to a much larger need to change myths and attitudes about disabilities, including the fact that people with disabilities are not often believed when they disclose abuse. When the system views survivors with disabilities as not credible, it then doesn't prosecute crimes against them. Abuse against people with disabilities becomes minimized or even accepted.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



#### MI • Grantee Perspective

Better communication needs to happen across interconnecting systems, such as healthcare, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system. While education and community awareness of resources is of critical importance in addressing obstacles faced by people with disabilities, it is imperative that the resources and systems in place to serve people with disabilities are functioning collaboratively and have a common language and understanding of how to provide trauma-informed and accessible services.

YWCA WEST CENTRAL MICHIGAN



#### MN • Grantee Perspective

Further complicating lack of autonomy for people with I/DD is lack of reliable, efficient, and free/low-cost transportation. This leaves people with I/DD dependent on others for meeting their transportation needs. ASHC recognizes that although we may improve our services for victims/survivors of sexual violence with I/DD, we cannot have a large impact unless victims/survivors can easily get to physical locations for services.

THE ARC GREATER TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 01/12/2022

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program<sup>i</sup>

The Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (ICJR Program) is designed to treat domestic/sexual violence as serious violations of criminal law by encouraging collaborative partnerships among state, local, and tribal governments and courts.

**THROUGH A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR), THE ICJR Program challenges entire communities to communicate, identify problems, and share ideas for responding to victims of domestic/sexual violence. This results in new responses and the application of best practices to enhance victim safety and ensure offender accountability at each juncture in the criminal justice system through investigation, arrest, prosecution, and close judicial oversight.**

## 198 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 198 unique grantees reported activities funded by the ICJR Program.

## 39,632 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 39,632 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 119,198 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 119,198 cases.

*Research shows that a more negative response from police can increase the likelihood of victims experiencing greater PTSD symptom severity (Srinivas & DePrince, 2015).*

*Of incidents known to police, roughly 32% result in the arrest or detention of the offender, and an estimated 7% of incidents result in criminal prosecution (Broidy, Albright, & Denman, 2016).*

<sup>i</sup> Formerly the Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, this program was renamed beginning in FY 2016 to more accurately reflect the scope of the program. Throughout this report, the program will be referred to as ICJR.



#### MT • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program Funding has allowed the Lake County Attorney's Office to prosecute domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault cases in a focused, systematic, equitable, and thorough manner which never existed before. Having an attorney and staff member solely devoted to these cases has lessened the burden of the other over-worked Deputy County Attorneys and their staff. It has allowed us to develop a comprehensive approach to victim outreach and a positive working relationship with the non-governmental victim's rights advocates. This ensures that victims who wish to play an active role in bringing their abuser to justice have a voice throughout the process.

LAKE COUNTY, MONTANA



#### WV • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program has allowed West Virginia to fill a training void that had been present for several years. The ICJR Program is basically the only funding available to conduct domestic violence training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial personnel, and victim advocates.

DIVISION OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES,  
WEST VIRGINIA

#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program has allowed the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to systematically address the issues of sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence within our community. Through the monthly Coordinated Community Response meetings, individuals from law enforcement, the prosecuting attorney's office, the probation department, the Women's Resource Center, and many more come together to address the community's needs. Additionally, the purchase of software and a cell phone for the project director of the Coordinated Community Response team makes services accessible 24/7. With specific software, the CCR project director can assist in holding offenders accountable in a more timely and accurate manner. Lastly, these funds have allowed the CCR project director to attend educational conferences and trainings that lead to better services for victims.

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA  
INDIANS

The scope of the ICJR Program is vast, as required to accomplish these goals. Purpose areas include:

- Develop or strengthen policies and training that assist in the recognition, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against older individuals and individuals with disabilities;
- Implement pro-arrest programs, policies, and training in police departments (for example, policies improving responses to protection order violations), and improve tracking of criminal cases;
- Develop state, tribal, territorial, or local policies, procedures, and protocols for preventing dual arrests and prosecutions;
- Coordinate computer tracking systems to ensure communication;
- Provide technical assistance and equipment to facilitate the enforcement of protection orders, including the development of protection order registries, across departments, agencies, states, and tribal jurisdictions;
- Centralize and coordinate police enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility;
- Strengthen legal advocacy service programs;
- Develop and establish comprehensive victim service and support centers, such as family justice centers; and
- Educate judges and court-based personnel (including juvenile courts).

VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose areas to this program:

- Improve the response of the criminal justice system to immigrant victims;
- Develop and promote legislation and policies to enhance best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence;
- Develop Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner programs;
- Develop multidisciplinary high-risk teams for reducing domestic violence and dating violence homicides;
- Train prosecutors;
- Develop Sexual Assault Response Teams or similar CCRs to sexual assault;
- Improve investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and treatment of victims;
- Provide HIV testing, counseling, and prophylaxis for victims; and
- Address sexual assault evidence backlogs, including notifying and involving victims, and develop protocols for addressing backlogs.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address these purpose areas. If an activity falling under one of the added purpose areas could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **198** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **9** (5%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Strengthen legal advocacy service programs;
  - Centralize and coordinate police enforcement, prosecution, and judicial responsibility; and
  - Develop and implement policies and training directed at the criminal justice response to sexual assault.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, victim services, law enforcement activities, prosecution, court services, supervision of offenders, and batterer intervention programs to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **194** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **400** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with ICJR grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>400</b>	
Victim advocates	<b>151</b>	<b>38%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>57</b>	<b>14%</b>
Law enforcement officers	<b>28</b>	<b>7%</b>
Prosecutors	<b>27</b>	<b>7%</b>
Victim assistants	<b>23</b>	<b>6%</b>
Administrators	<b>20</b>	<b>5%</b>

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



### IL • Grantee Perspective

ICJR program funding has allowed for the grant-funded staff to interface directly with campus officials responsible for providing federally mandated remedies for student survivors as well as those responsible for prevention, awareness, and response programming for sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking on campus and in surrounding communities. This collaboration requires travel across Cook County and time to meet one-on-one, and ensures schools have a direct contact when referring student victims to VOICES (Violence on Illinois Campuses Elimination Strategies). This networking has created a direct line of communication when students report to Title IX who need, or request support outside of their institutions administration process. In addition, this funding has provided time for the specialized Assistant State Attorney to effectively respond, investigate, and prosecute these cases. The grant-funded ASA is able to engage the victim early in the legal process and offer comprehensive “wrap-around” services throughout.

#### COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Funding has enabled Safe Horizon to assign a case manager to the 46th Precinct and a court-based senior case manager to the Bronx Criminal Court. They provide victims of domestic violence with comprehensive, client-centered services at the earliest stages, throughout the life of the court case, and even after interaction with the criminal justice system has ended. Staff help victims of domestic violence manage their risk and make informed decisions about ongoing safety. They conduct safety assessments, assist with safety planning, provide options and support decisions. Clients in need of additional services will often return to the precinct-based case manager and court-based senior case manager. As a result of this funding, we enhanced our outreach to victims and survivors of domestic violence and crime. We provided clients with assistance to address risks to safety, connected clients to resources that aim to improve safety and self-sufficiency, and assisted with navigating the criminal justice process.

#### OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT, NEW YORK



### OK • Grantee Perspective

ICJR Program funding has provided a Coordinated Community Response Specialist who trains and assists all 77 counties. Addressing domestic and sexual violence is carried out in a coordinated manner with victim safety and offender accountability as the main focus. The CCRS has helped four teams build a CCRT or SART and three teams re-build CCRTs that had fallen apart or lost focus. Funding has allowed for 9 training events to address multiple issues including protective order enforcement, trauma-informed responses, team building and planning, and use of expert witnesses to over 200 professionals who work with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL, OKLAHOMA

*An additional impact of the VAWA 2013 reauthorization emphasis on enhanced services for victims of sexual assault was a 45% increase in the number of SAFE/SANE providers trained by ICJR grantees. These ICJR grantees reported training 466 SAFE/SANE professionals during the January to June 2013 reporting period and 675 in the July to December 2016 reporting period.*



### KY • Grantee Perspective

The grant-funded victim advocate received 337 referrals and provided services to 261 victims during this period. Without the funding for this position, the Division of Police would not be able to serve the number of DV and crime victims it currently does. The work performed by the advocate is without reservation, the most beneficial element provided by this grant. They provide advocacy for victims from the onset of their experience. Standing alongside victims at Protective Order hearings; guiding them through the often alarming court processes associated with protecting themselves and their families while prosecuting a perpetrator; helping victims when perpetrators violate protective orders; safety planning and assistance with shelter placement; referrals for partner agencies to assist the survivors to get their lives back to normal. Their services only end when the victims no longer feel a need for their assistance

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT, KENTUCKY

## Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation and correction officers, child protection staff, sexual assault forensic and nurse examiners, and mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective CCR to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **137** (69%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **4,861** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **99,000** people.
- Most often these trainings reached law enforcement officers (**33%**), victim advocates (**11%**), health professionals (**8%**), and multidisciplinary groups (**7%**).

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. Victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **158** (80%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **39,632** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **22,093** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **19,906** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment services to **11,034** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment services to **10,950** victims; and
- Support group/counseling services to **8,713** victims.

### Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **116,406** times;
- Grantees received a total of **303,049** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**53%**) came from victims.



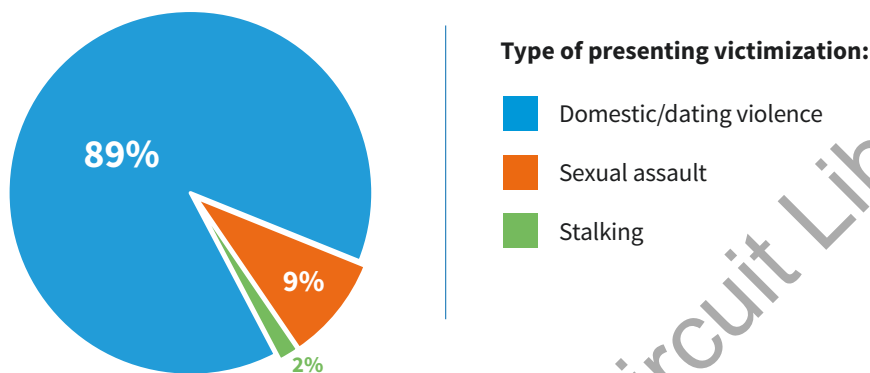
## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (89%).

**Figure 1** | Provision of victim services by ICJR Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Victims served and partially served by type of victimization** (6-month average)



**Table 2** | Victims seeking services with ICJR grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>39,914</b>	
Victims served	38,949	98%
Victims partially served	683	2%
Victims not served	282	1%

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the ICJR Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the ICJR Program grant.

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (68%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (18%) or by another **family or household member** (9%).



### PA • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program funding has provided A Woman's Place with the ability to offer 24/7 crisis intervention for victims of domestic violence across the entire county. In addition to the crisis response, the First Response team provides court accompaniment and advocacy that results in better outcomes for clients and increases offender accountability. In one case, the First Response advocate was working with a woman whose abuser had a warrant out for his arrest for stalking her, was violating the PFA on a regular basis, and was evading police by hiding in a different county. After some advocacy with the Sergeant Detective, the department reported his whereabouts to the local jurisdiction where he was hiding and they were able to pick him up within three days. He was recently given a two year state sentence and the victim is finally able to move on with her life.

**BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Without this funding, the YWCA of Central Massachusetts would not be able to respond with on-site, prolonged support and advocacy, especially in high risk cases where the inability to respond in person immediately would negatively impact a survivor's initial outcome. Also, the Advocate provides on-going services and advocacy in pre-existing gaps in services at the courthouse. The Advocate (Court-based Interventionist) was able to improve the cross referral system between the YWCA and other agencies connected to survivors such as district and superior courts and personnel in the District Attorney's (DA's) office. For example, the Advocate met with a participant in crisis at District Court who was in the process of obtaining a 209A protective order. The Advocate connected the victim with the DA's office and assisted the victim in successfully advocating her needs to ensure her safety. Further, the Advocate provided court accompaniment for the subsequent criminal court proceedings.

**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**



**CA • Grantee Perspective**

The ICJR Program funding allows the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) to provide enhanced services to clients. In March, after a 911 call to the Elk Grove Police Department (EGPD) dispatch, a 50 year old woman was transported to the emergency room. She sustained injuries from an abusive incident. The DVRT advocate was dispatched to respond to the client and offer her services. At first, the client did not want to speak to the advocate. She said “I just want to go home.” The hospital social worker did not want to release her without a safety plan in place. The DVRT advocate discussed options with the client. A week after the incident, the client reached out to the DVRT advocate and said that she was in a safe place. The ICJR Program funding allows the DVRT to address each clients’ needs as they arise. If not for the ICJR Program funding, it is possible that this client would have left the hospital against medical advice and returned to her abusive husband.

**CITY OF ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA**

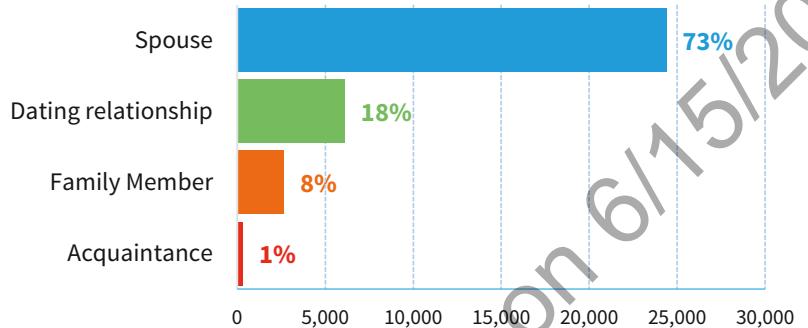


**ME • Grantee Perspective**

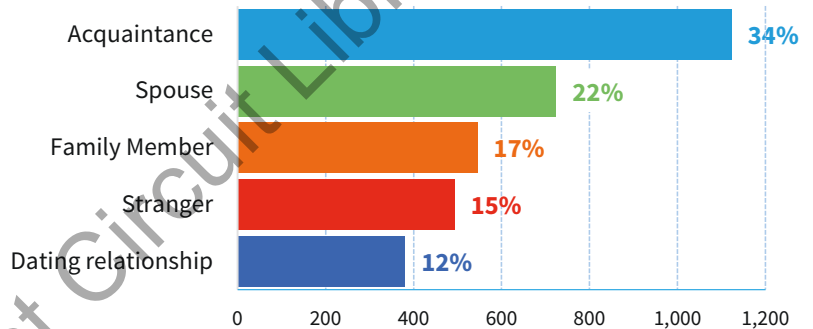
Without the ICJR Program funding, the Violence Intervention Partnership would not be able to provide services and outreach to populations identified as underserved and at risk, or specialized community supervision, both pre- and post- trial. The project would not be able to provide education/support groups, case management, and transition services for incarcerated victims of domestic violence, a population that is often overlooked. Ninety-four victims (187 total) incarcerated at the Cumberland County Jail, and Maine Correctional Center, have received these services from the Incarcerated Victim Advocate in the last six months. She has also been an active participant in the referral process for the County’s new Second Chance Act Project Re-entry, which has a special focus on women with co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance abuse).

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

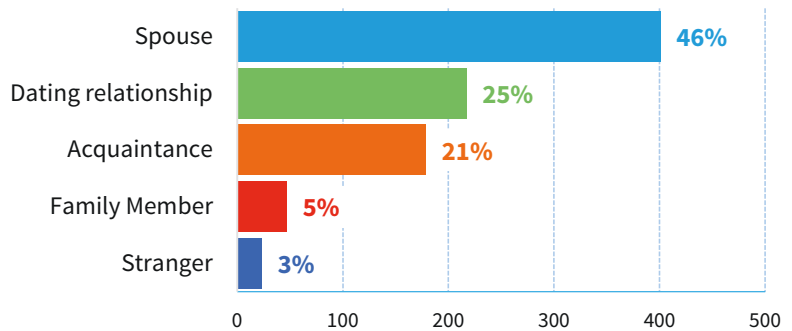
**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual Assault** (6-month average)



**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



**Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served**

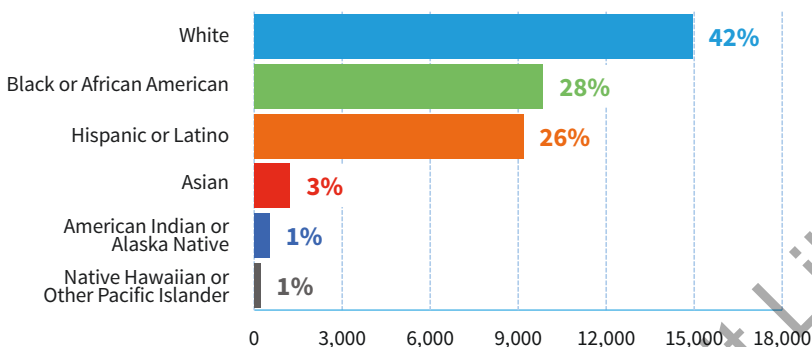
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

- Conflict of interest;
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements;
- Program unable to provide services due to limited resources;
- Services were not appropriate for victim; or
- Program reached capacity.

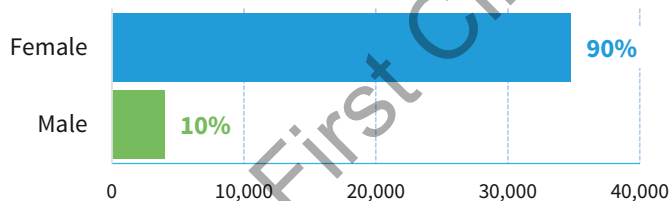
## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **39,632** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (42%), **female** (90%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (75%).

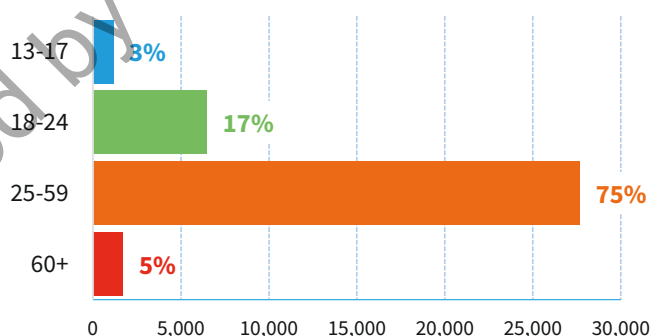
**Figure 5** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



### CO • Grantee Perspective

The Arrest Grant has allowed Alternative Horizons (AH) to continue its collaborative relationship with the 6th Judicial District Attorney's Office. The AH Legal Advocate is a welcomed non-systems addition to the victim services provided to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking during domestic violence court proceedings. The AH Legal Advocate is able to provide support, counseling, and important referrals to victims at the time of court hearings and proceedings and beyond. The AH Legal Advocate has continued contact with victims outside of the courtroom setting and is able to provide holistic services to help establish safety.

COLORADO JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT



### CA • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed SAVE to leverage the success of its advocate stationed at the Fremont Police Department and garner a small amount of additional funding from that department to offer after hours "on call" services. Officers now call a SAVE advocate during the evening and overnight hours to get immediate assistance when they are on scene at a domestic violence call. The advocate is placed on the phone with the victim and offers immediate crisis counseling and access to emergency shelter and transportation. In particularly severe cases, the advocate will meet the officers and screen the victim at the hospital, providing in person services. This grant allows Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), through coordination with other funded agencies, to provide in-depth case management assuring that all needs of the survivor are addressed. Because of this funding, Tri-Valley Haven (TVH) continues to be the only agency in Eastern Alameda County that provides free restraining order assistance. TVH offers two weekly legal clinics, one in Livermore and one in Pleasanton, and TVH's Legal Services Advocate is available to meet with clients by appointment if they are unable to attend either of the scheduled clinics.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 10/16/2022

A recent study examining ten years of National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data found that while mandatory arrest statutes have resulted in higher arrest rates, the impacts of primary aggressor laws have been mixed. The findings indicate that primary aggressor laws effectively decrease the number of dual arrests as a percentage of overall arrests; however the overall percentage of police interventions in intimate partner violence that result in arrest appears to decline in jurisdictions implementing these laws. Further, there is significant variation in rates of arrest based on the race and sexual orientations of the victim and offender. These findings point to a need for further research into the effectiveness and impact of arrest laws (Hirschel et al., 2017).



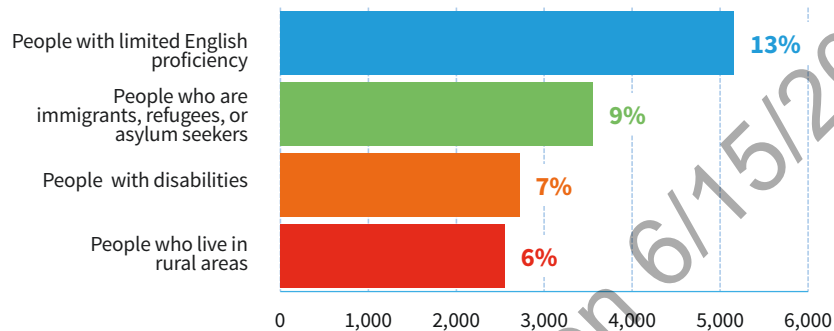
#### AL • Grantee Perspective

The One Place Family Justice Center is the first center in the state to have an on-site magistrate. This is essential in the timeliness of serving our victims. The victims do not have to come to the Justice Center, then go to another location to sign a warrant. The last reporting period the magistrate issued 95 misdemeanor domestic violence warrants and 19 felony domestic violence warrants.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION, ALABAMA

*Without proper training, an officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor, may unknowingly minimize a victim's trauma, may fail to collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. Moreover, if an officer sides with an abuser, a victim may not report future assaults. Research shows that law enforcement were most likely to arrest perpetrators when they received training on and followed these best practices: in-person investigating, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to the violence, providing victims with 911 telephones, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe (Hamby et al., 2015).<sup>225</sup>*

**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



## Criminal Justice

The ICJR Program supports the efforts of local jurisdictions to develop or enhance a CCR that brings together law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. It is expected that grantees' criminal justice activities will reach beyond the individual unit or grant-funded staff person and, as a result, grantees report criminal justice data for the entire agency within the jurisdiction.

## Law Enforcement

Grantees address the role of law enforcement in responding to domestic/sexual violence.

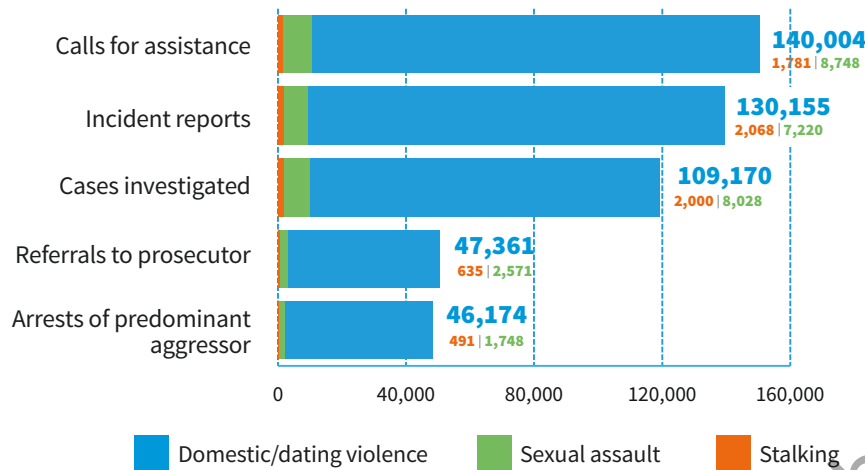
- **57** (29%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **85,314** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

**A proactive response and victim-centered attitude influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.**

A meaningful and serious response by law enforcement agencies includes:

- Documenting all calls for services;
- Actively investigating all sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents;
- Referring cases to prosecutors (as appropriate);
- Seeking warrants and statements of charges (as appropriate);
- Arresting the perpetrator;
- Helping victims secure protection orders;
- Accompanying the victim to the home to retrieve their immediate belongings (as appropriate);
- Making referrals (as appropriate); and
- Providing victims with information about available services.

**Figure 9** Law enforcement activities in ICJR Program criminal cases, July 2015–June 2017



**TX • Grantee Perspective**

This grant allows the Webb County Sheriff's Office to dedicate the time and efforts of a full-time investigator to work only on cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Webb County. The progress on these cases is much faster and more efficient due to the investigator concentrating on these often time consuming, difficult, and complex cases. It also helps the victim get the services much faster. Once the suspects are arrested, the victims will get their emergency protective orders put in place very quickly and the victim will feel safer. As the investigator works these cases exclusively, he is better able to keep track of reports, arrests, cases, and work much more closely with other agencies to help expedite the process to help victims gain assistance and help prevent the perpetrator from re-committing these types of crimes.

**WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS**

*The VAWA 2013 emphasis on improving responses to victims of sexual assault may be evident in the criminal justice outcomes reported by ICJR grantees before and after its implementation. During the January to June 2013 reporting period, ICJR-funded prosecution offices reported that 69% of their felony sexual assault cases resulted in convictions. By the July to December 2016 reporting period, this rose to 80%. Specifically, 464 of the 672 felony sexual assault cases disposed of during the January to June 2013 reporting period resulted in conviction, while 602 of the 752 felony sexual assault cases disposed of during the July to December 2016 period resulted in convictions.*

**Prosecution**

Jurisdictions with specialized prosecution programs often boast high prosecution and conviction rates. These programs may include specialized prosecution units, specialized prosecutorial training, and vertical prosecution procedures.

- 40 (20%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecutors received a total of **126,337** case referrals pertaining to domestic/sexual violence, and accepted a total of **92,248**<sup>ii</sup> (73%) cases for prosecution across the 2-year period.
- Prosecution staff made a total of **79,157** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

**Table 3** Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the ICJR Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
<b>All cases</b>	<b>126,337</b>	<b>92,248</b>	<b>73%</b>
Domestic/dating violence	117,433	85,287	73%
Sexual assault	5,923	4,192	71%
Stalking	2,981	2,769	93%



**TX • Grantee Perspective**

The ICJR Program funding allows the DA's Office to create the Intimate Partner Sexual Assault Unit that is leading to a number of enhancements in the way we serve victims and prosecute cases. The DA's Office streamlined the case assignment system, leading to quicker connections with victims within the continuum, and has implemented a new policy that allows the IPSA prosecutor to handle all co-occurring domestic violence-related offenses within the same incident. They have developed a robust dashboard around case and victim information that allows us to learn more about the cases assigned to the IPSA Unit.

**TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

<sup>ii</sup> Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period.



### AZ • Grantee Perspective

ICJR Grant Funding allows the Pima County Attorney's Office (PCAO) to operate with a fully staffed centralized DV Prosecution Unit. DV cases are issued by a very experienced prosecutor. If cases proceed to a preliminary hearing, we attempt to keep those cases with that attorney who handled the preliminary hearing for the duration of the case. This allows our felony prosecutors to be familiar with their cases early on in the process and work with their victims from the very beginning of their cases. Arrest Grant funding has also allowed and ensured that our prosecutors receive appropriate Domestic Violence training, including training on intimate partner sexual assaults and strangulation. Many of the victims in our cases are also involved in concurrent litigation related to family law and immigration issues. Our referral program to Southern Arizona Legal Aid had helped support victims through that process, allowing them to successfully participate in the criminal case. It also ensures that victims receive the proper assistance through Emerge and the PCAO victim advocates.

#### PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA



### ID • Grantee Perspective

Without ICJR Program funding, in-court advocacy for victims would not be a reality in Bannock County. The resources of the local advocacy program providing the advocates were stretched thin, but with the funding, they were able to hire more advocates to provide court advocacy. In the past six months, Bannock County has seen an increase in the number of requests for criminal court advocacy and requests for assistance in completing civil protection order petitions.

#### BANNOCK COUNTY, IDAHO

**Table 4** Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the ICJR Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
<b>All cases</b>	<b>90,734</b>	<b>44,713</b>	<b>49%</b>
Domestic/dating violence	81,760	38,860	48%
Sexual assault	3,426	2,448	71%
Stalking	466	320	69%

**NOTE:** Convictions include deferred adjudications.

## Courts

Specialized domestic violence courts improve offender compliance with court-ordered conditions and impose enhanced penalties for non-compliance.

- 9 (5%) grantees used funds for court activities.
- Court staff made a total of **8,067** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

Courts funded by the ICJR Program conduct a range of activities, including:

- Coordinating with criminal justice and social service agencies to identify resources to address gaps in the system of services;
- Providing extensive and ongoing training on domestic/sexual violence issues;
- Implementing practices to ensure consistency in case handling;
- Enhancing case information flow between partner agencies;
- Emphasizing defendant monitoring and accountability; and
- Enhancing protection for, and services to, victims.

## Judicial Monitoring

Judicial monitoring improves the justice system's ability to ensure offender accountability. Convicted offenders are required to make regular court appearances to determine whether they are complying with the conditions of their sentences.

- An average of **960** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.
- A total of **9,462** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.

The data reported in Table 5 reflect the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **1%** of the cases and issued fines in **4%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**16%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**39%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **8%** of the cases.

**Table 5** Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by ICJR Program-funded courts, July 2015–June 2017

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of parole	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 63)	0	0%	11	17%	12	19%	17	27%	17	27%
New criminal behavior (N = 90)	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%	10	11%	34	38%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 57)	2	4%	6	11%	0	0%	12	21%	22	39%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 69)	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	9	13%	18	26%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 54)	0	0%	10	5%	0	0%	6	11%	16	30%

**NOTE:** Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.

## Probation and Parole

Following the example of police, prosecutors, and courts, probation departments have adopted specialized methods for managing domestic violence offender cases. These specialized domestic violence units enforce intensive supervision on their probationers and may require attendance at batterer intervention programs.

- **20** (10%) grantees used funds for probation activities.
- Probation staff made a total of **5,089** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

## Offender Monitoring

Probation officers monitor offenders to review progress and compliance with court orders. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- An average of **4,684** offenders were monitored during each 6-month period.
- Across the 2-year period, these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:
  - A total of **102,465** face-to-face contacts with an average of **3,744** offenders;
  - A total of **84,927** telephone contacts with an average of **3,334** offenders; and
  - A total of **39,431** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **2,104** offenders.



### GA • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program continues to allow judges not only to order respondents to a Family Violence Intervention Program but to have a Compliance Officer monitor their status. The Compliance Officer meets with respondents immediately after a 12-month order has been granted. Respondents are provided a list of classes and must choose a program before they leave court. During the compliance hearing, the Compliance Officer provides the judge with a status report. The status report will include but is not limited to, if there has been contact with the petitioner/victim, class attendance, if they are paying class fees, and checking in with the Compliance Officer twice a month by phone or email. The check-ins by phone or email give the respondents an opportunity to address any concerns or issues that might arise, ask any questions, and/or give feedback on progress they are making while attending classes. Since our Compliance Project began, we have been able to monitor respondents who moved out of state. These individuals must provide documentation of their residence, and report by phone or email. The respondents who reside out of state are not required to return to court as often as those that reside in Georgia. We've had respondents complete their programs in Alabama, Florida, Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland.

**DEKALB COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT, GEORGIA**



### TN • Grantee Perspective

This funding has expanded Metro's Office of Family Safety work on high risk cases of domestic violence. The implementation of the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) throughout Metro Nashville-Davidson County has significantly changed the way that intimate partner cases are responded to by all partners. The formalization of the High Risk Intervention Panel and the creation of the Weekly Advisory Committee case review has increased the number of cases provided a review exponentially. In 2016, an average of 3 cases were reviewed per monthly meeting and in 2017, that average increased to 6 cases reviewed per monthly meeting. In addition, the 184 weekly reviews were added to the high risk review process where there was previously no weekly review. This funding will continue to provide Nashville with the tools needed to make sure the high risk cases receive the wrap-around services and offender accountability they require.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



### LA • Grantee Perspective

While our area still has a much higher rate of domestic violence than the nation, the rate of domestic violence in Ouachita Parish has dropped 35% since the opening of the Family Justice Center in 2005. Because of the ICJR funds, our area has seen a reduction in homicides. The FJC, SAFE Task Force and The Wellspring were recognized by the LA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) in October 2015 with a report that Northeast Louisiana recent data shows that there has been a drop of roughly 70% in domestic homicides since 2011. This is the first time that any area in the state of Louisiana has seen a reduction in homicides. This proves that collaboration of the FJC, Coordinated Community Response and community is saving lives while being firm about holding batterers accountable for their actions.

#### OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA



### MA • Grantee Perspective

The ICJR Program funding allows our small non-profit to provide a cost-effective service to victims of domestic violence by training and supervising volunteer advocates to work in partnership with police departments to provide a coordinated community response. This funding supports the recruitment, training, supervision, and continued professional development of volunteer advocates, broadening the response to crisis intervention in our communities. It also allows us to train police about the complex issues surrounding victims who live with abuse. Police in our departments learn to approach these situations with greater understanding, compassion, and skills that allow more humane and appropriate outcomes for the victims. To date, 90 police officers have participated in our 40-hour advocate training with volunteer civilians.

#### TOWN OF BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

### Probation officers also contact victims as a strategy to increase victim safety.

- A total of **5,762** violations were reported across the 2-year period.
- The most frequently reported types of violations and responses to those violations were as follows:
  - Failure to comply with other conditions of probation or parole accounted for **2,272** (39%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**1,619** or 71%);
  - Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (BIP) represented **1,201** (21%) of violations and most often resulted in partial or full revocation of probation (**705** or 59%); and
  - New criminal behavior accounted for **938** (16%) of violations and was the violation most likely to result in partial or full revocation of probation (**708** or 75%).

The data reported below (Table 6) reflect the consequences imposed for violations of probation. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **4%** of the cases and issued fines in **3%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**12%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**64%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **12%** of the cases.

**Table 6**

Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by ICJR Program-funded probation and parole agencies, July 2015–June 2017

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of probation	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 795)	19	2%	113	14%	18	2%	83	10%	263	33%
New criminal behavior (N = 938)	57	6%	32	3%	22	2%	119	13%	299	32%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 1,201)	37	3%	186	15%	48	4%	225	19%	278	23%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 556)	29	5%	102	18%	27	5%	62	11%	168	30%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 2,272)	100	4%	278	12%	52	2%	223	10%	956	42%

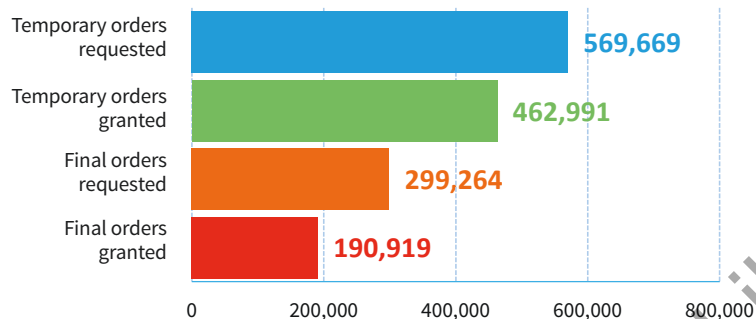
**NOTE:** Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.



## Community Measures

Grant funds are intended to support a CCR that will affect the entire jurisdiction. For this reason, grantees are asked to report on the number of protection orders requested and granted within the jurisdiction.<sup>iii</sup>

**Figure 10** Protection orders requested and granted under the ICJR Program, July 2015–June 2017



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **access to affordable emergency and long-term housing** for victims and families as the most significant remaining area of need.

Along with affordable long and short-term housing, grantees also cited a number of **unmet needs within victim services**, including:

- Employment;
- Child care;
- Job training;
- Short-term financial assistance;
- Mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling; and
- Transportation.

In particular, grantees pointed to the need for **low cost and pro bono civil legal assistance** to help victims with divorce, child custody matters, and the collateral consequences of victimization, including matters relating to housing and personal property.

<sup>iii</sup> Numbers represent cases in which complete data were available for both orders requested and granted. In some jurisdictions grantees report difficulty in obtaining protection order data; for example, if a city is the grant-funded jurisdiction and protection order data are collected at the county level, it is not possible to report precisely on the number of orders requested or granted in the city.



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Safe, affordable housing also continues to be an unmet need for many victims of domestic violence throughout New York City, and Staten Island is no exception. For victims with limited financial resources, there are a few options for renting apartments. With long wait lists for public housing and fewer beds in domestic violence shelters than can meet the demand, many victims must turn to the city's homeless shelter system for housing or else continue to live with an abusive partner. For victims in Staten Island, seeking safe housing often means having to leave the borough, which may in turn require changing employment, schools, medical providers, and being separated from a support system.

SAFE HORIZON, INC., NEW YORK



### NH • Grantee Perspective

While our legal service partners do a great deal of work for clients in restraining order, parenting, and divorce cases, their funding and resources are so limited that the services provided to clients are thus limited. Not only are resources for these issues limited, but clients are often dealing with issues outside of the scope of these services, such as foreclosure, property disputes, illegal eviction or termination, and the like. There are so few resources available for victims who face these civil issues as a result of their victimization, and with the complexity inherent in many of these cases, it is difficult for services to be provided without the full representation of an attorney. Additionally, for a variety of reasons, offenders are more likely than the victims to be able to have an attorney, and yet there are not enough legal resources to provide victims with representation or assistance in drafting DV petitions, temporary restraining orders, motions, parenting plans, and other court documents to adequately demonstrate the client's abuse or need for items being requested in a motion. Many motions are denied simply because the victim is not aware of how to complete the forms in a way which adequately demonstrates their victimization.

STAFFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, NEW HAMPSHIRE



### IN • Grantee Perspective

First contacts are critical and these initial contacts shape a survivor's decision of whether or not to seek assistance in the future based on their past experiences and faith (or lack thereof) in the system to appropriately respond to and assist them. Law enforcement is often the first contact with survivors and as such, have the unique ability to provide a gateway to supportive resources. Based on feedback from survivors as well as our experiences in the field, it is clear that sensitizing law enforcement to the unique issues facing survivors is critical to providing an appropriate and supportive response, including best practices for enforcement of protective orders. Survivors repeatedly inform us police threaten dual arrest should the survivor need to call back and ask for additional assistance, they provide inaccurate information to survivors about the process of seeking a civil protection order, and misperceive clear signs of trauma as the survivor being combative, difficult or uncooperative. When this is the response we know that survivors are less likely to call law enforcement for subsequent acts of violence or to appropriately and effectively enforce an existing protective order.

COUNTY OF MONROE, INDIANA



### MN • Grantee Perspective

An area of remaining need for victims is a better, streamlined and consistent means to language access. The DV advocate and investigator have this as a top priority when identifying 911 calls to respond to; however, a systemic shift is necessary within 911 and the police department to ensure victims have access to interpreters in their native language. Reliance on family, friends or neighbors to interpret for a victim or an offender creates far too much uncertainty about the accuracy in what either is truly saying. The St. Paul PD is currently looking at updating their policy and researching different language service providers as the current service provider takes far too long to respond to an officer request for an interpreter.

ST. PAUL AND RAMSEY COUNTY DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT, MINNESOTA

Grantees cited difficulty in providing **culturally sensitive victim services, translation, and outreach** to underserved populations, particularly **immigrants, refugees, and those with limited English proficiency (LEP)**.

Grantees also emphasized the need to improve services and outreach to:

- People of color;
- LGBTQ populations;
- Victims in rural areas;
- Elderly victims; and
- Persons with one or more disabilities.

Grantees emphasized the need to **expand victim-centered, trauma-informed training** to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges.

Grantees cited the need to **improve offender accountability**, through:

- Standardization and improvement of batterer intervention programs (BIPs);
- Streamlining the process for victims to obtain orders of protection;
- Better enforcement of protection orders;
- Pre-trial supervision of offenders and enhanced offender monitoring in misdemeanor cases;
- Coordination of domestic violence and sexual assault protocol and policy across jurisdictions;
- Information sharing and improved collaboration between courts, probation, and law enforcement; and
- Shortening trial wait times to encourage victim participation.

Finally, grantees called for **greater access to dedicated sexual assault victim services, including SANE services, and more aggressive prosecution of sexual assault**.



### WA • Grantee Perspective

In the criminal justice field there is a need to shorten trial wait times. Many clients wait a range of twelve to eighteen months when an offender takes the case to trial. During that time the defendant is often in the community. These wait times are sometimes due to unforeseeable factors such as rescheduling of trial dates, hiring of private investigators, or agency staff vacations, but also factors that could be improved. In our region these unfavorable factors include high caseloads for judicial officers, prosecuting attorneys, and public defense counsels that don't allow for enough time for trial preparation and evidence discovery. This region also has courts and prosecuting attorneys who will not try cases independently without victim testimony, which can be used as a tactic for the defense to delay the case until the victim no longer feels it's valid to participate, at which time court dismisses the charges.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OF SOUTH SOUND, WASHINGTON

# Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program

VAWA 2013 authorized the Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (Justice for Families or JFF Program), which consolidated two pre-existing VAWA-funded programs: the Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program), and the Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program (Supervised Visitation Program), and added new purpose areas as well.

**JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES GRANTEES SEEK TO IMPROVE THE RESPONSE** of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic/sexual violence or child sexual abuse. JFF grantees do this by promoting the development of supervised visitation and exchange centers, improving civil and criminal court responses to victims of domestic/sexual violence, and training court-based and court-related personnel on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The last grants made under the Courts and Supervised Visitation programs were awarded in FY 2013.<sup>i</sup>

## 112 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 112 unique grantees reported activities funded by the JFF Program.

## 4,537 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 4,537 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 78,457 Supervised Visitations

Grantees provided a total of 78,457 supervised visitation and exchange services to an average of 1,891 families.

*In specialized courts, trained advocates can provide support throughout the proceedings and share information with victims; and judges demonstrate knowledge of domestic/sexual violence and respectful treatment of victims. These practices can help victims as they navigate legal proceedings. These courts have also been shown to reduce rearrests for any criminal charges, inclusive of domestic violence charges, among convicted offenders who were subject to policies such as judicial supervision and sanctions for noncompliance (Anderson, 2015; Bell et al., 2011; Cissner et al., 2015).*

<sup>i</sup> Justice for Families was authorized by VAWA 2013 in March of 2013, and Congress appropriated funds for this new program. However, OWW had already accepted applications under the former Supervised Visitation and Courts programs for FY 2014 funding, so FY 2014 Justice for Families awards were made to applicants that had applied under the two programs' solicitations.



### ME • Grantee Perspective

Project partners report that this funding has led to increased victim safety, offender accountability, and additional legal supports for victims beyond their immediate safety concerns. It has created a safety net for victims, in part by serving as a catalyst to identifying and reaching out to other community partners to respond to victim needs when one agency cannot. The availability of Pine Tree Legal staff to provide consultations and legal advice, even when they cannot provide full representation, is specifically cited by advocates at partner agencies as a significant benefit of this project, leading advocates to “feel far more supported and confident in the court services that we can provide to clients,” according to the Family Violence Project advocate.

**PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, MAINE**



### ND • Grantee Perspective

These funds allow us to continue developing collaborative relationships with project partners involved in criminal and civil cases such as law enforcement, advocates, prosecution, probation, offender treatment program staff and court personnel. Collecting and analyzing data allows these project partners to identify trends and concerns and generate innovative ways to enhance victim safety and offender accountability. Many project partners have experienced recent personnel turnover and budget cuts, so project staff continued to work on developing and sustaining relationships through meetings, trainings, and other collaborative efforts. These funds allow us to bring in national trainers to provide stakeholders with a better understanding of violence dynamics, safety needs of victims, and best practices. Further, these funds allowed us to pursue the implementation of a specialty domestic violence court. We were able to receive technical assistance from the Center for Court Innovation and use their evaluation tools to conduct a readiness assessment to determine if our current system would be able to implement and sustain a domestic violence court.

**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER,  
NORTH DAKOTA**

The scope of the Justice for Families Program is vast, as required to accomplish these goals. Purpose areas include:

- Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children and youth by and between parents in situations involving domestic or dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking;
- Educate and train court-based and related personnel on issues relating to victims’ needs, perpetrator behavior, and offender accountability;
- Provide resources in juvenile court matters to ensure victims receive necessary services;
- Provide civil legal assistance to victims and non-offending parents (where the other parent is represented by counsel);
- Enable courts or court-based or related programs to develop new or enhanced:
  - Court infrastructure;
  - Community-based initiatives within the court system;
  - Offender management/monitoring/accountability programs;
  - Safe and confidential information storage and sharing databases;
  - Education and outreach to improve community access to the courts; and
  - Other projects to improve court responses to domestic/sexual violence.

VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **112** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **9** (8%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children and youth;
  - Educate court-based, court-related, and court-appointed personnel and child protective service workers; and
  - Provide civil legal assistance and advocacy services.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide supervised visitation and safe exchange for children; develop community consulting committees; engage in issuing protection orders or helping victims obtain them; support victims in family matters and/or criminal cases; and establish statewide training and technical assistance projects to increase supervised visitation and safe exchange options. They provide training, supervised visitation, victim services, offender management, and support criminal and civil courts. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **103** (92%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **168** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support supervision staff and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with JFF grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>168</b>	
Supervision staff	<b>54</b>	<b>32%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>37</b>	<b>22%</b>
Victim advocates	<b>17</b>	<b>10%</b>
Administrators	<b>14</b>	<b>8%</b>
Security staff (including court security)	<b>12</b>	<b>7%</b>
Attorneys	<b>8</b>	<b>5%</b>
Case/docket managers	<b>8</b>	<b>5%</b>

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Training

Grantees train law enforcement, court personnel, legal personnel, prosecutors, probation officers, guardians ad litem, victim advocates, child welfare workers, and other social service agency staff to help improve the response to victims, children, and families with a history of domestic/sexual violence or child sexual abuse. **This training enables visitation staff to meet the safety needs of all family members and improves the professional response to victims while increasing offender accountability.**

- **85** (76%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **542** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **10,019** people.
- Most often these trainings reached court personnel (**20%**), victim advocates (**14%**), attorneys/law students (**11%**), and mental health professionals (**7%**).



### MI • Grantee Perspective

Funding has allowed us to employ a Grant Project Coordinator, which our program never had before. This position has enabled us to increase community outreach, and build and strengthen relationships with new and existing referral sources, thus increasing referrals and the number of families accessing our services. Additionally, having a Grant Project Coordinator allowed us to provide training to community groups, attend community collaborative meetings and update and create new program materials for referral sources and parents.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN



### OR • Grantee Perspective

Having a part-time advocate devoted to working with adult victims connected to our program is a huge benefit to victim safety and improved outcomes. We have been able to leverage the funding to provide additional hours for our advocate, expanding the time she can work with our clients from 6 hrs per week to 16 hours per week.

DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON



### ND • Grantee Perspective

In addition to collecting data, these funds allow us to coordinate meetings, trainings, and other collaborative efforts. For example, our district court has experienced an unprecedented turnover of judges and prosecution over the past two years, including another judicial officer who is leaving this August. JFF funds will allow us to bring in national trainers to provide training to both new and existing judges and court personnel. The training will provide participants with a better understanding of violence dynamics, the safety needs of victims, and best practices.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER, NORTH DAKOTA



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (DVLAP) and its project partners are continuing to develop a service provision model focused on working together as a community to increase access by bringing services to the community. This collaborative working model marks an unprecedented shift in the approach of community-based capacity building and sustainability. All partner organizations work together, learn from each other, and provide cross-technical assistance to achieve a service provision model that increases access for LGBTQ survivors who are the most in need. LGBTQ survivors gain the benefit of having increased responsiveness and can seek services where they are more inclined to and/or comfortable through this collaborative offsite model. What is more, the simultaneous opportunity to train court-based and court-related personnel across a large and vast county such as Los Angeles, adds a holistic wrap-around approach to enacting systemic change. These objectives work in tandem toward achieving profound and desperately needed changes to the way LGBTQ survivors access court systems.

LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER, CALIFORNIA



### AZ • Grantee Perspective

The Justice for Families funding allows us to continue victim outreach within City Court. Victims who used to attend with the offenders and sit in the back of the courtroom unrecognized are now regularly referred to advocates for safety planning and directly addressed by the judge. With this change, we have seen victims continue to return to court, knowing that their voices will be heard and that the system is responsive. We hope that this encourages the victims who haven't left their offenders to connect with victim services and to know that the justice system will be responsive if they decide to engage with it in the future. We've had judges from around the state of Arizona come to sit in on Judge Million's court sessions, as the funds have allowed us to become a model for DV courts statewide. The funding for additional security has made the court a safer place for victims and their children and has made everyone aware of the safety concerns in these situations.

TUCSON CITY COURT, ARIZONA

## Victim and Family Services

### Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims navigating the court and legal system. These services may include legal advocacy to secure a protection order or custody, civil legal assistance, criminal justice advocacy, and victim advocacy, including safety planning. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **35** (31%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **4,537** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

**During each 6-month reporting period, on average, grantees provided:**

#### Advocacy services:

- Victim advocacy to **1,857** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy to **1,818** victims; and
- Criminal justice advocacy to **900** victims.

#### Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **8,673** times; and
- Grantees made a total of **2,001** referrals to governmental victim services and **11,996** to non-governmental victim services.

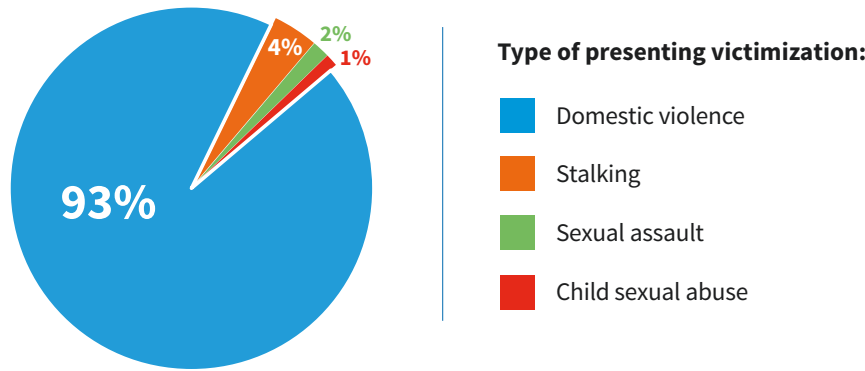
### Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic violence/dating violence** (93%).

**Figure 1** Provision of victim services by JFF Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**WA • Grantee Perspective**

JFF money has allowed us to grow a robust CourtWatch program in King County. The program has the respect of judges and other criminal justice personnel. The data gathered has enabled us to make some practical and powerful legislative changes that enhance victims' access to legal remedies. While the program focuses on local information, it has had statewide positive impacts. Not a week goes by without the program receiving calls from across the US from people who are contemplating a similar program. We are so grateful for this grant!

**KING COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER, WASHINGTON**

**Table 2** Victims seeking services with JFF grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>4,590</b>	
Victims served	4,429	96%
Victims partially served	108	2%
Victims not served	54	1%

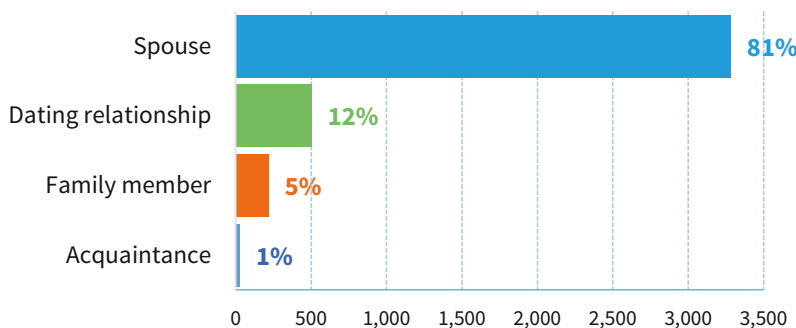
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant.

**Victims' Relationship to Offender**

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (79%).
- The remaining victims were most often victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (12%) or by a **family member** (7%).

**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)



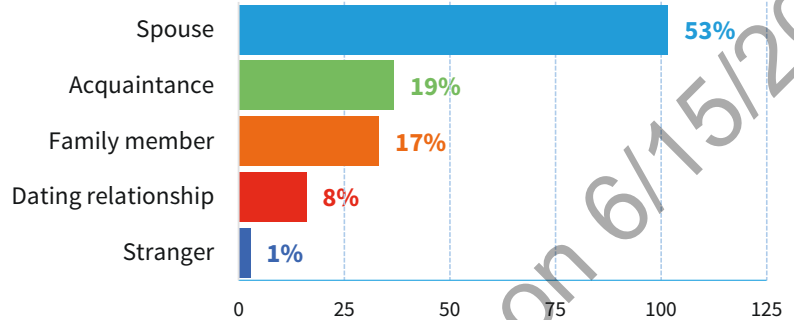


**CA • Grantee Perspective**

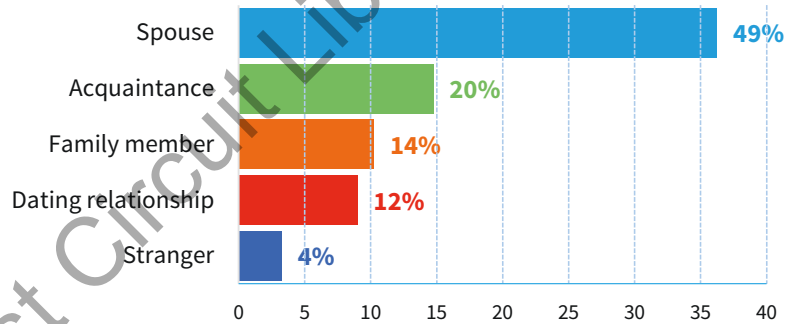
Without the Project funding provided by the OVW grant, the Court would be unable to extend the free legal services that the Staff Attorney position currently provides to low-income DV victims. These services have proven crucial in assisting protected parties with family issues consisting of civil restraining orders and residence exclusions, custody and visitation disputes, divorce, legal separation, support, and parentage cases. Court data shows that there is a high demand for free legal assistance services across the board, with approximately 35,000 Court users seeking legal assistance in the Self Help Center in calendar year 2016. There are a limited number of agencies in the County that offer free attorney-provided legal assistance to low-income individuals, and fewer that focus on assisting DV victims.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

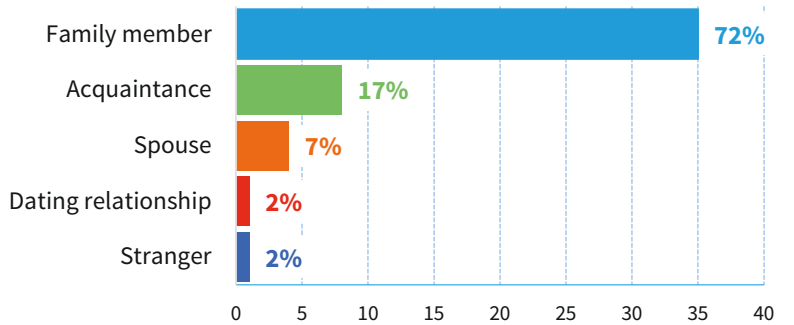
**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



**Figure 5** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Child sexual abuse** (6-month average)



**Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served**

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Conflict of interest;
- Services not appropriate for victim; or
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements.



## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **4,537** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **white** (51%), **female** (87%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (76%).

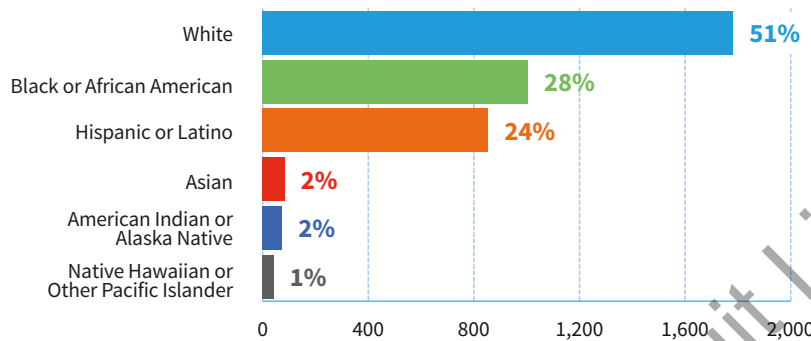


### CA • Grantee Perspective

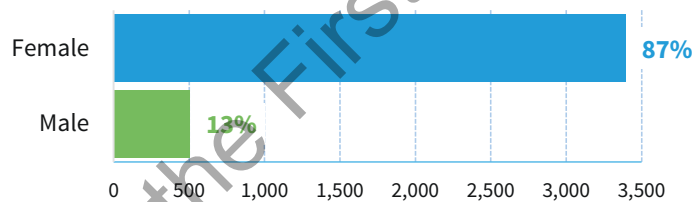
One of the goals for the Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (DVLAP) has been to make LGBTQ civil legal assistance and advocacy more geographically and culturally accessible. DVLAP continues to increase access for survivors across the greater Los Angeles County area, including access for the Black/African American and Latinx communities. In fact, 78% of victims/survivors identified with non-white races and ethnicities, 48% of which identified as Hispanic/Latino, a 19% increase from last reporting period, and 26% of which identified as Black/African American, an 8% increase from last reporting period. DVLAP tracked victims/survivors for the following underserved identities: non-white, non-male, non-heterosexual, non-cisgender, non-U.S. citizen, over 60 years old, having a disability, or being a limited English proficient person, and found that 91% of victims/survivors identified with at least two of those identities. Not surprisingly, the victims/survivors that were the most unserved/underserved were those with multiple marginalized identities, 52% of which had at least three and 35% of which had at least four of those identities. DVLAP also set a goal of increasing access for LGBTQ women, who are dis-proportionally impacted by violence. DVLAP held off-site legal clinics at the Los Angeles LGBTQ Center's Women's Wellness initiative, which provides wrap-around holistic services. DVLAP reports that 69% of victims/survivors identified as women and 9% identified as transgender women. Many clients received services that, otherwise, they would have not received.

LOS ANGELES LGBTQ CENTER, CALIFORNIA

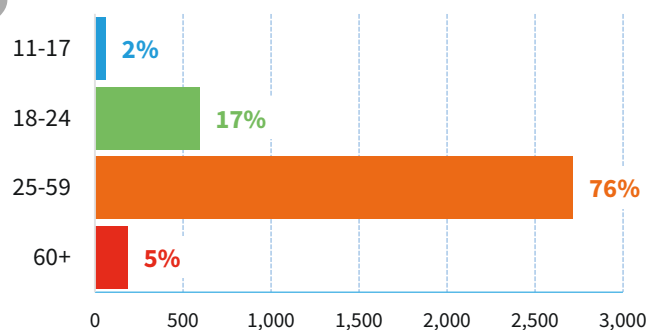
**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



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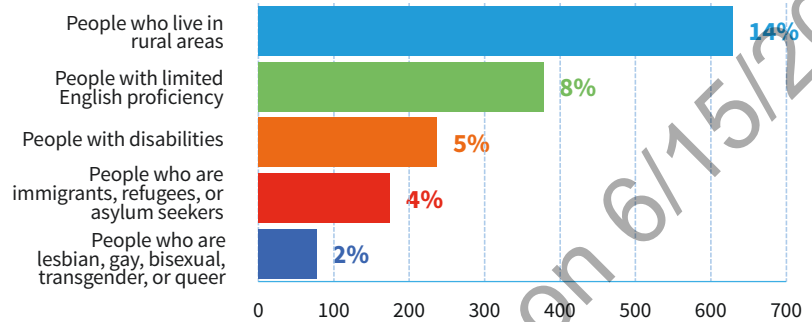


**CA • Grantee Perspective**

Victims need affordable legal services that are accessible, relevant and provided by those with expertise in DV. With this grant funding, OVV Staff Attorneys are able to meet with litigants on the day of court before their court hearing to explain court process, ensure compliance with court procedures, address pending matters such as custody and visitation, and connect victims with on-site domestic violence advocates from community-based organizations. Without Justice for Families funding, the Court would be unable to provide effective coordination with advocates from the Domestic Violence Intervention Collaborative (DVIC) and the YWCA. Without the information provided by the Staff Attorneys and the partnership between the agencies and the Court enriched by the Justice for Families grant, these services would not be successfully delivered to DV victims on their court day.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

**Figure 9** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)

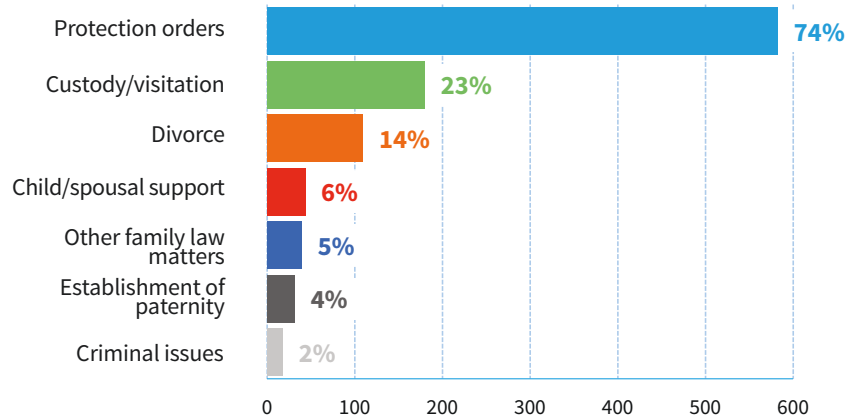


**Legal Services**

Grantees began providing legal services to victims and non-offending parents on July 1, 2014. These services, which were provided by grant-funded attorneys or paralegals, can include representing non-offending parents in matters of child sexual abuse, providing assistance to victims in divorce and custody cases, and helping victims obtain protection orders against their abusers. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:<sup>ii</sup>

- **17** (15%) grantees used grant funds for legal services.
- Grantees addressed an average of **1,063** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **264** victims (34% of those receiving services).
- Grantees achieved a total of **1,941** legal outcomes.
- Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and custody/visitation.

**Figure 10** | Victims who received assistance with legal issues addressed by JFF Program grantees, July 2016–June 2017 (6-month average)



<sup>ii</sup> Prior to July 1, 2016, grantees reported legal services activities on separate attachments, which are not included here. Therefore, legal services data only reflects the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 reporting periods.

**Table 3** | Outcomes of legal issues addressed by JFF Program grantees, July 2016–June 2017

Legal matter	Outcomes (N=1,941)		Information/ referrals/ advice	Court decision	Brief services	Negotiated resolution/ filed action
	N	%				
Protection order	813	42%	37%	52%	0%	6%
Other family law matters	308	16%	9%	87%	2%	1%
Child custody/ visitation	290	15%	39%	41%	11%	7%
Divorce	269	14%	26%	38%	24%	6%
Child/spousal support	92	5%	28%	43%	20%	4%

**NOTE:** Outcomes data represent issues disposed of, not the number of victims. Percentages for outcomes are based on the number of issues disposed of in each category; not all categories of outcomes or legal matters are included. Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Services for Families

Grantees provide one-to-one supervised visits, group supervised visits, and supervised exchanges. Before providing services, grantees conceptualize and develop supervised visitation and exchange services through community-based consulting committees. **This comprehensive, collaborative planning process ensures the safety of adult victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children during visitation or exchange.**

- **57** (51%) grantees used funds to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,891** families during each 6-month period.
- **95%** of families who requested services received them during each 6-month reporting period.



### PA • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR) to maintain and promote a new support group for survivors of sexual assault aimed specifically at addressing legal process questions and traumatic stress management. Philadelphia Legal Assistance (PLA) was able to hire a full-time paralegal based primarily in Philadelphia's Family Court Help Center who is fluent in Spanish. Both Court-based Advocates are Spanish speakers which allows us to better serve this population. Both Advocates now have access to Language Line to aid other limited English proficiency clients. We are now able to provide on-site legal services at Family Court, which eases the burden on litigants and affords litigants the ability to receive services more quickly and without going through each agency's intake process. We are now also able to better screen for domestic violence and sexual assault at the beginning of litigants' cases, and better inform litigants of their legal options when facing IPV, sexual assault, and/or child sexual abuse.

**PHILADELPHIA LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER,  
PENNSYLVANIA**

*For many victims of domestic violence, leaving the relationship does not end the abuse perpetrated by their partners. The risk of abuse to the non-abusing parent and children during separation and after divorce often continues or increases; in some cases, abusers may kill their partners and children during this escalating period of violence. After separation, children are often exposed, directly or indirectly, to violence, threats, intimidation, manipulation, and coercive controls, which can profoundly compromise their emotional stability and psychological wellbeing (Crossman et al., 2016; Ellis, 2017; Jaffe, Campbell, Reif, Fairbairn, & David, 2017).*

**Across the 2-year period, grantees provided the following services:**

- A total of **41,540** one-to-one supervised visits to an average of **1,218** families;
- A total of **31,224** supervised exchanges to an average of **515** families; and
- A total of **5,693** group supervised visits with an average of **212** families.

During the 2-year reporting period, grantees reported that the following safety and security problems occurred during supervised visitation and/or safe exchanges:

- **81** attempts to contact other party;
- **49** threats made;
- **28** violations of protection orders; and
- **16** times security staff were unavailable.

During each 6-month reporting period, nearly **one-third** (27%) of families receiving services completed services or services were terminated.

- **62%** of the families discontinued involvement because threats ceased, there was a change in the court order, mutual agreement, or treatment was completed; and
- **25%** were terminated because they habitually did not keep appointments, were incarcerated, did not comply with program rules, or were terminated due to supervisor’s discretion.

**Families Seeking Services**

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of families served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (87%).



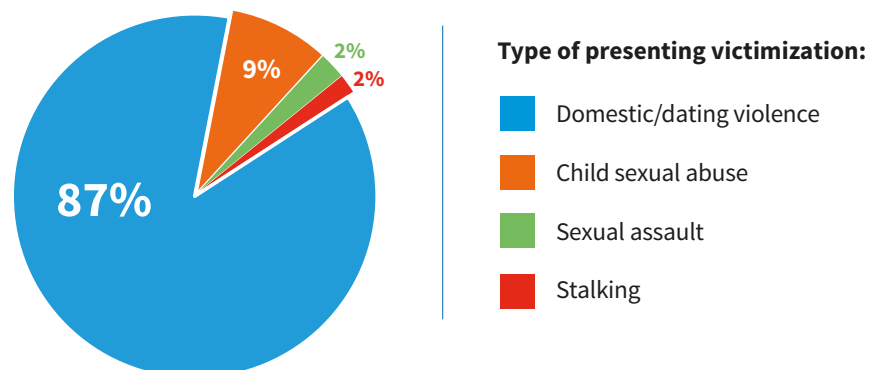
**VA • Grantee Perspective**

With Safe Havens funding, our grant is able to serve families who have cases in the Fairfax County Circuit Court, who are referred by the Department of Family Services when they are unable to provide safe supervised visitation, and when a court from a different jurisdiction refers a family because one parent lives in Fairfax County. We are able to have an increased security presence during visitation hours, and are able to provide safe transportation for clients who would otherwise have to travel by bus with small children, possibly along the same route as their abuser.

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

**Figure 11** | Provision of family services by JFF Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Families served and partially served by type of victimization** (6-month average)



**Table 4** | Families seeking services with JFF grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Families seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total families seeking services</b>	<b>1,987</b>	
Families served	<b>1,853</b>	<b>93%</b>
Families partially served	<b>38</b>	<b>2%</b>
Families not served	<b>97</b>	<b>5%</b>

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant. "Not served" represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the JFF Program grant.

## Families Referred to Supervised Visitation or Safe Exchange Programs

Grantees report on referral source and primary victimization for all families they serve or partially serve.

- The majority of families served or partially served were referred by a **family court order** (60%).
- The remaining families were most commonly referred by a **protection order** (17%) or a **domestic violence court order** (10%).

**Table 5** | Average number of families using supervised visitation or safe exchange by primary victimization and referral source, July 2015–June 2017

Referral source	Number of families	
Family court order	<b>1,131</b>	<b>60%</b>
Protection order	<b>316</b>	<b>17%</b>
Domestic violence court order	<b>189</b>	<b>10%</b>
Child welfare agency	<b>78</b>	<b>4%</b>
Self-referral	<b>61</b>	<b>3%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥50 families).

## Reasons Families Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons families were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Family was not accepted into program; <sup>iii</sup> or
- Hours of operation.

For those families who were not accepted into the program, grantees reported the following reasons:

- Client unwilling to agree with program rules;
- Situation was deemed too dangerous; or
- Conflict of interest.

<sup>iii</sup> These are families who requested grant-funded services and were willing and able to partake in those services, but who were not accepted into the program.



### MI • Grantee Perspective

The Justice for Families funding has allowed programs to continue to provide supervised visitation and monitored exchange services to survivors and their children, have flexible operation hours (Monday-Thursday 9:30am-8:30pm, Friday 9:30am-7:30pm and Sunday 3pm-7:30pm), and have a full-time program coordinator and two part-time monitors/staff. We do not have to turn survivors away due to funding/resources. Furthermore, the funding enables staff to follow up with custodial parents and children to assess safety, risks and needs. This funding also provides an opportunity for state-wide organizing around civil legal issues that impact the lives of survivors and their children. This funding provides valuable training regarding these issues and has helped to create much needed systemic change.

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



### AK • Grantee Perspective

Prior to this our community did not have a supervised visitation and exchange center. These funds allow us to continue to provide an invaluable service to enhance safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in the Fairbanks community.

**ALASKA COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

## Demographics of Families Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,891** families during each 6-month reporting period. The majority of custodial parents were **white** (75%), **female** (74%), between the ages of **25 and 59** (89%), with children between the ages of **7 and 17** (52%). Noncustodial parents were most likely to be **white** (70%), **male** (73%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (92%).

**Table 6**

Demographic characteristics of parents and children served with JFF grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Characteristic	6-month average					
	Custodial parent		Non-custodial parent		Children	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Race</b>						
American Indian or Alaska Native	37	2%	42	2%	84	3%
Asian	42	2%	39	2%	86	3%
Black or African American	252	14%	321	18%	483	18%
Hispanic or Latino	207	11%	224	12%	387	15%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	8	< 1%	4	< 1%	14	< 1%
White	1,367	75%	1,270	70%	1,939	73%
Unknown (missing)	80		77		163	
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	1,394	74%	506	27%	1,391	50%
Male	483	26%	1,348	73%	1,409	50%
Total	1,901		1,881		2,815	
Unknown (missing)	24		27		15	
<b>Age</b>						
0–6	–	–	–	–	1,350	48%
7–17	–	–	–	–	1,454	52%
11–17	5	< 1%	5	< 1%	–	–
18–24	171	9%	124	7%	5	< 1%
25–59	1,670	89%	1,697	92%	0	0%
60+	30	2%	28	2%	–	–
Total	1,901		1,881		2,815	
Unknown (missing)	26		27		6	
<b>Other</b>						
People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
People with disabilities	61	3%	135	7%	106	4%
People with limited English proficiency	78	4%	81	4%	60	2%
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	68	4%	69	4%	33	1%
People who live in rural areas	407	21%	398	21%	588	21%

## Criminal Justice

The Justice for Families Program promotes a coordinated community response that includes representatives from victim service agencies, child welfare agencies, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, healthcare providers, and public and private community resources. To enhance protection for and services to victims within the court system, grantees work with criminal justice and social service agencies to address service gaps; provide training; ensure consistency in case handling; enhance case information flow among partner agencies to improve judicial decision-making and partner agency operations; and emphasize defendant monitoring and accountability.

## Criminal Cases

JFF-funded courts use funds for dedicated dockets, specialized courts, and other practices to enhance case flow; information sharing; and successful prosecution of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse.

- **19** (17%) grantees used funds for criminal case activities.

## Case Dispositions

**Table 7** | Dispositions of cases by JFF Program-funded courts, July 2015–June 2107

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in conviction	
		Number	Percent
<b>All cases</b>	<b>9,895</b>	<b>6,353</b>	<b>64%</b>
Misdemeanor domestic/dating violence	5,234	2,869	55%
Felony domestic/dating violence	1,213	782	64%
Violation of protection orders	1,155	849	74%
Violation of probation or parole	1,134	905	80%
Domestic/dating violence ordinance	719	576	80%

**NOTE:** Convictions include deferred adjudications.



### FL • Grantee Perspective

Justice for Families funding allows for enhanced accountability and targeted responses for batterers. Prior to the funding, there was little to no informational tracking of injunctions or firearm affidavit tasks. At times, a limited legal intern would file orders to show cause in injunction when available. There is now a dedicated position to file orders to show cause and follow compliance hearings in injunction proceedings. Targeted responses to battering had not been provided to Community-Based Care and Child Investigation workers. Each staff reviews elements of power and control and evaluates safety responses and service coordination. Topics of consultation include use of weapons, GPS services, family or criminal court sanctions and orders, applications for injunction, chapter 39 injunctions, Batterer Intervention Program providers and coordination, safety planning, confidential safety plans with co-located advocate, why marriage and couples counseling is inappropriate, interviewing batterers and survivors separately, why anger management is not appropriate, high risk indicators, indicators for lethality, and previous Domestic Violence history.

**FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

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## Criminal Protection Orders

Criminal protection orders are issued as bail conditions or as conditions of release to protect the victim during the pendency of a criminal case or following a conviction, or deferred adjudication, of the offender.

**Table 8** Criminal protection orders issued by JFF Program-funded courts by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2107

Type of case	Granted as a condition of:	
	Bail	Deferred disposition/probation
<b>All cases</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>1,896</b>
Domestic/dating violence	2,971	1,827
Stalking	47	67
Sexual assault	2	2



### MN • Grantee Perspective

In the past six months, the surveillance officer has monitored 28 screened-in Domestic Violence Court (DVC) offenders. Of the 28 offenders monitored, 16 of them had no violations, with the remaining 12 having violations. Out of 250 total surveillance checks during this reporting period 25 were with violations and the remaining 225 without. The surveillance officer attends weekly compliance hearings for offenders in the DVC and works closely with the DOC agent assigned to the DVC. Together, they are able to monitor the offenders more closely which allows them the ability to hold offenders accountable.

PEARL BATTERED WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER,  
MINNESOTA



### TX • Grantee Perspective

Without the funding, as we have discovered, our ability to monitor offenders during pre-trial becomes much more problematic. The court becomes less effective without timely information of how offenders are complying with pre-trial conditions of bond, victims become less safe, and offenders themselves have to endure more severe conditions, including incarceration, when other alternatives could have been available.

DALLAS COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT 10, TEXAS

## Judicial Monitoring

Judicial monitoring occurs when the court schedules regular probation or court reviews to determine whether convicted offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- An average of **1,045** offenders were monitored in each 6-month reporting period.
  - The overwhelming majority of offenders reviewed were domestic violence offenders (**nearly 100%**).
- A total of **10,858** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.

Judges monitor offenders to review progress and compliance with court orders. The data reported in Table 9 reflects the consequences imposed for violations of court orders. With each type of violation, the courts took no action in only **9%** of the cases and issued fines in **2%** of the cases. A significant number of cases resulted in the courts adding conditions (**20%**), or partially or fully revoking probation (**40%**). The courts issued a verbal or written warning in **30%** of the cases.



**Table 9** Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders by JFF Program-funded courts, July 2015–June 2017

Violation	No action taken		Verbal/written warning		Fine		Conditions added		Partial or full revocation of probation	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Protection order (N = 474)	59	12%	26	5%	30	6%	73	15%	286	60%
New criminal behavior (N = 261)	63	24%	7	3%	23	9%	70	27%	98	38%
Failure to attend mandated batterer intervention program (N = 963)	56	6%	442	46%	1	<1%	146	15%	318	33%
Failure to attend mandated offender treatment (N = 339)	17	5%	222	65%	0	0%	57	17%	43	13%
Other condition of probation or parole (N = 880)	53	6%	171	19%	0	0%	238	27%	418	48%

**NOTE:** Other conditions include requirements such as substance abuse and alcohol treatment, parenting classes, and mandatory check-ins.

## Civil Justice

### Civil Protection Orders

Civil orders of protection, also known as restraining orders, are court-issued injunctions that prohibit or limit an offender's contact with the victim and prohibit further abusive behavior. These orders may include custody and visitation directives, economic relief, and temporary restrictions on possession of firearms. Orders of protection are enforceable throughout the country, not solely in the issuing jurisdiction:

- **12** (11%) grantees used funds for civil protection order cases.

**Table 10** Civil protection orders issued by JFF Program-funded courts by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Temporary orders	Final orders
<b>All cases</b>	<b>10,804</b>	<b>4,668</b>
Domestic/dating violence	7,243	2,848
Stalking	804	332
Sexual assault	2	56
Type of victimization unknown	2,755	1,432



#### CA • Grantee Perspective

A lesbian woman, who had substantial challenges in accessing resources prior to the Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (DVLAP), sought DVLAP services during the last reporting period in responding to a protection order filed against her by an abusive ex-partner and continued receiving services in the current reporting period. DVLAP attorneys represented the client in multiple protection order hearings that continued into the current reporting period and ended with a favorable court decision. DVLAP also assisted the client in successfully defending against two small claims lawsuits and is currently assisting with another civil case, all of which were filed by the ex-partner to direct abuse toward the client.

LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER, CALIFORNIA



#### FL • Grantee Perspective

The Justice for Families funding enabled the court to establish a dedicated domestic court docket for intimate partner civil protection order cases. It enabled more consistent availability of advocacy and support in the Clerk of Courts intake centers. It enabled adequate court case management to launch a DV compliance monitoring system, which also includes firearm and ammunition surrender protocols.

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA



### NJ• Grantee Perspective

The Justice for Families Program funding enabled Essex County Family Justice Center to increase its onsite civil legal capacity and support for pro se victims/survivors in response to direct client feedback received via exit surveys and focus groups that identified civil legal assistance as one of the primary service gaps in Essex County. Prior to receiving the Justice for Families funding, Essex County Family Justice Center did not have a dedicated Civil Legal Screener to identify the civil legal needs of victims/survivors and coordinate onsite and offsite resources to address their needs, nor a dedicated Pro Se Victim Advocate to help prepare unrepresented victims/survivors for their Temporary or Final Restraining Order hearings and to accompany them to court, as requested.

**ESSEX COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, NEW JERSEY**



### MN• Grantee Perspective

The surveillance officer shared the advantage he has gained in observing an offender over time. This has opened his eyes to recognize patterns in the offender's behavior and he has gained the ability to observe the different tactics used by the offender to gain power and control over the victim. When monitoring jail phone calls, he can visualize the power and control wheel as he listens to the offender speaking to the victim directly or through a third party. The surveillance officer reported his confidence that utilizing voice recognition software has cut DANCO violations in half. The surveillance officer reported that this is invaluable to see the domestic violence as a pattern of power and control over time instead of only seeing it as an isolated incident, as he once did as a regular deputy. This has given him the opportunity to see domestic violence in a broader way and to see the bigger picture of the manipulation tactics, which may not have been possible before he became the DV Court surveillance officer. The surveillance officer is one of the main components of the Mille Lacs County Domestic Violence Court that has had a profound effect on the case outcomes of domestic violence cases. Without the surveillance officer as a part of this project, it is more likely victims would be contacted, offenders would disregard judicial conditions and the level of accountability needed wouldn't be realistically possible.

**PEARL BATTERED WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER, MINNESOTA**

**Table 11** | Types of relief issued in final protection orders by JFF Program-funded courts, July 2015–June 2017

Types of relief	Number of protection orders/cases
Stay away/no contact	4,380
Firearms restrictions	3,543
Batterer intervention program (BIP)	1,158
Custody	53
Sole parental rights to petitioner	865
Sole parental rights to respondent	26
Shared parental rights	8
Allocated parental rights	151
Other offender treatment (e.g. substance abuse or other counseling, does not include BIP)	434
Supervised visitation/exchange	336
Economic relief (e.g. spousal support, debt assignment, payment of obligations and/or losses)	285
Child support	152

**NOTE:** Custody represents the number of protection orders in which custody was addressed but the specific outcome was not known.

**Table 12** | Post-judgment/post-adjudication judicial reviews of civil protection order conditions, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Number of cases (6-month average)	Number of hearings (2-year total)
Civil protection order case reviews	916	4,870

## Family Cases

The issues facing victims in family law matters — divorce, custody, child or spousal support, or parental rights and responsibilities — are complex. When criminal and/or protection order cases are also pending, the situation can be overwhelming and burdensome for victims, and competing or conflicting orders may place them at greater risk. Grantees may structure their dedicated docket or specialized court to include family matters where families are experiencing domestic violence. This could be a “one judge, one family” system in which one judge hears all matters relating to that family. Specially trained court staff who are aware of the dynamics of domestic violence will understand that some offenders use the court system to exert control over victims and force ongoing contact.

- 7 (6%) grantees used funds for family cases.

**Table 13** | Number of new and pending family cases addressed by the JFF Program, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Number of cases (6-month average)	Number of hearings (2-year total)
Divorce (children in common)	248	2,636
Divorce (no children in common)	97	1,002
Parental rights/responsibilities	37	504

**Table 14** | Post-judgment/post-adjudication judicial reviews of family cases, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Number of cases (6-month average)	Number of hearings (2-year total)
Family case reviews	117	1,141



**CA • Grantee Perspective**

The video conference advocate services allow the court and its project partners to assist rural, underserved residents in a cost-effective, convenient way. The free supervised visits are needed and appreciated by families struggling to overcome the devastating effects of DV. Neither of these highly beneficial services would be possible without this grant funding. This project has also provided a very high level of education, training, and technical assistance that would not have been possible without OJV support. The increased education has expanded local understanding of best practices that is improving responses to DV, and now human trafficking, in Fresno County.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO**

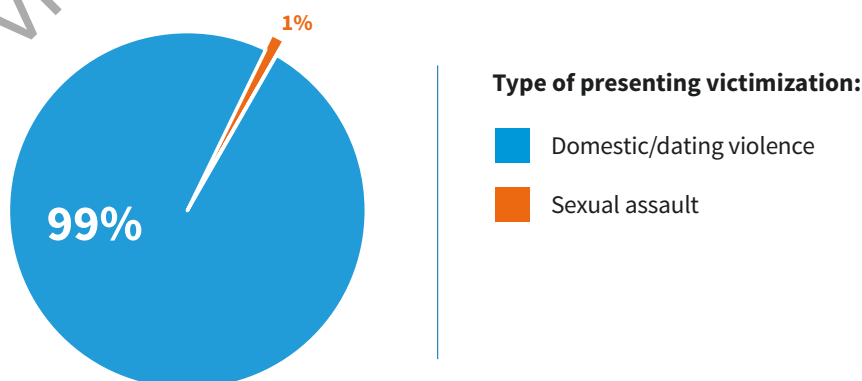
### Court-Based Probation or Other Offender/Respondent Compliance Monitoring

Probation officers or other court-based compliance monitors conduct offender monitoring to determine whether offenders/respondents are complying with the terms of their court orders. Those orders could be pre-trial, bail, protection orders, probation, or other conditions of release.

- **12** (11%) grantees used funds for probation or monitoring activities.
- An average of **1,322** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.
- On average, grantees reviewed BIP information or contacted BIP staff for **411** offenders/respondents, and had meetings or contact with **340** offenders/respondents.
- As a strategy to increase victim safety, probation staff contacted an average of **178** victims in each 6-month reporting period.

**Figure 12** | Offenders/respondents monitored by the JFF Program, by type of offense

Offenders monitored by type of offense (6-month average)





### IL • Grantee Perspective

Despite our efforts almost 70% of victims with children in common with their abuser proceed pro se, with no lawyer, advocate or law student assistance. In these times of limited resources ensuring that those who must self-represent have litigant educational materials and a place for quick answers to commonly asked questions seems a priority that is emerging.

COOK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, ILLINOIS



### LA • Grantee Perspective

Unfortunately, we continue to see families who have experienced domestic violence where the victim has lost custody. Certainly in these cases the victim remains at risk and often continues to experience post-separation violence. Additionally, the batterer has been emboldened and there is no change-agent or intervention in place. The center works to validate the victim's experience in these cases but the relationship with her children is often severed with no hope for recovery until much later in life. This continues to guide our efforts to educate not only court personnel but other service providers including those in the legal, mental health, law enforcement, housing, and legislative arenas. As we continue our efforts and conversations locally, regionally, statewide and nationally, around the seemingly complex circumstances contributing to this phenomenon it seems that it may actually be quite simple: people don't believe victims.

THE WELLSRING ALLIANCE FOR FAMILIES,  
LOUISIANA



### TX • Grantee Perspective

The most significant area of remaining need at this time in order to increase the safety of families is to increase offender accountability at the pretrial stage. Many offenders are released on bond and monitored by pretrial services, an arm of the court. However, there is little to no accountability when offenders violate the terms of their bond, even when doing so places the victim or family in danger. Pretrial services does not notify the victim, law enforcement, or judge, for example, when the offender violates the GPS restrictions by going near the victim. This leaves victims thinking they are protected when they are, in fact, not protected.

TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL  
ASSAULT SURVIVAL CENTER, TEXAS

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently reported the need for **pro bono or low cost civil legal services** for victims and for **improved legal resources for pro se litigants**.

Grantees also felt that **more training was needed on trauma-informed response and the dynamics of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault** among:

- Judges and court personnel;
- Prosecutors; and
- Law enforcement.

A number of grantees pointed to the need to **enhance offender accountability** through:

- Improved access to batterer intervention programs (BIP);
- Stricter enforcement of protective orders; and
- Enhanced pre-trial supervision.

Providers of **supervised visitation and exchange** underscored the need to improve access to services by:

- Opening satellite facilities;
- Expanding hours of service; and
- Increasing awareness of their services within their communities.

Grantees also highlighted the need to **improve coordination between courts and service providers and between jurisdictions** in order to improve outcomes for victims.



### OH • Grantee Perspective

Regarding training, VAWA funds should be increasingly directed to support programs that highlight the complex nature of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, particularly as these acts/crimes intersect with other legal issues, such as custody and visitation, human trafficking, termination of marriage, offender supervision, and self-represented litigants. Training for courts should not be exclusively targeted to judicial officers, but should also take into account training for justice partners (e.g. guardians ad litem, probation, court interpreter, mediators, etc.) and court-led multidisciplinary team training. The latter approach to training has been beneficial and well-received in Ohio. It has not only built community capacity, but has also allowed many courts to see more ways to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable.

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

Many grantees emphasized the need to provide **comprehensive services to victims in order to improve outcomes in criminal and civil proceedings.**

These services included:

- Emergency shelter and long-term affordable housing;
- Transportation;
- Child care; and
- Mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling.

These needs were especially pronounced in **rural areas.**

Grantees also mentioned the need to improve **legal and victim services for underserved populations,** especially:

- People with limited English proficiency;
- Immigrants and refugees;
- Native American victims; and
- People of color.



#### **MN**• Grantee Perspective

Clay County has shown that offenders in Domestic Violence Court who successfully complete nonviolence education are significantly less likely to commit another domestic violence offense within one year of the date of conviction. As such, more emphasis has been placed on trying to get defendants successfully through the program. However, despite the low cost of weekly groups, a number of defendants are terminated from the program for too many misses due to inability to pay. Therefore, the financial ability of offenders to pay for nonviolence education is another area of remaining need.

**CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, MINNESOTA**



#### **IL**• Grantee Perspective

The first area of significant need is improved language access for Limited English Proficient victims/survivors and related litigants. As a result of many conversations with TA providers, we have identified needs related to access to justice. Although we were able to create bilingual signs for our new Domestic Violence Assistance Center (DVAC), many signs and documents across the courthouse remain only in English at this time. Additionally, we need more training for our staff on issues related to language access as well as cultural responsiveness specific to our DV/SA/Stalking victims

**17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS**



#### **Tribal**• Grantee Perspective

Due to our pending jurisdictional litigation with the State, there has been a moratorium of communication between our Tribal Court and the State Court systems pending resolution to the matter. Currently, County Courts are not disclosing when a DV incident occurs that involves a Tribal member. In turn, these cases get processed through State Court without utilization of the services that are available through the Tribe and its programs. More recently, State Courts are beginning to communicate with Tribal Court in cases that involve Tribal citizens who are Juveniles so that they can be provided culturally appropriate services while still being held legally responsible for their actions. With continued communication and education to professionals within these jurisdictions, it is the Project Coordinator's hope that we can develop a procedure to ensure that Tribal victims are ensured safety and resources and Tribal perpetrators are held accountable and receive culturally appropriate services.

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BAND OF ODAWA INDIANS**

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 01/15/2022

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program

The Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (LAV Program) is intended to support victims of domestic/sexual violence who are seeking relief in legal matters arising from their abuse. The LAV Program develops innovative, collaborative projects that provide quality representation to victims of domestic/sexual violence, and provides opportunities for communities to examine how the legal needs of victims can be met.

**THE LAV PROGRAM MAKES AWARDS TO LAW SCHOOL CLINICS, DOMESTIC violence services programs and shelters, bar associations, rape crisis centers, and other sexual assault services programs; private nonprofit entities; Indian tribal governments and tribal organizations; territorial organizations; legal aid or statewide legal services; and faith- and/or community-based legal service providers. Grant funds may be used for direct legal services to victims of domestic/sexual violence. In addition, grant funds may be used to provide enhanced training for lawyers representing these victims as well as for advocates.**

## 272 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 272 unique grantees reported activities funded by the LAV Program.

## 28,204 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 28,204 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 40,816 Legal Issues Addressed

Grantees addressed an average of 40,816 legal issues and achieved a total of 105,162 outcomes.

Grantees may provide assistance to adult and youth victims in family, immigration, employment, administrative agency, and housing matters; campus administrative, protection or stay away order proceedings, or other similar matters; in addition to criminal justice investigations, prosecutions, and post-trial matters (including sentencing, parole, and probation) that impact the victim's safety and privacy.

*Legal representation in family matters is especially crucial for victims of domestic violence, because offenders may continue to exert control over victims by using the legal system to force contact, restrict victims' access to protection, make implicit threats, and create ongoing challenges through litigation. Through these forms of "paper abuse," offenders can exert coercive control long after victims end the abusive relationship. Civil legal advocacy has been shown to decrease revictimization and improve self-sufficiency and psychological and economic well-being, thus working against these kinds of ongoing abuse (Copp's Hartley, & Renner, 2016; Douglas, 2017a; Miller & Smolter, 2011).*



### DE • Grantee Perspective

LAV Program funding has allowed La Esperanza to represent victims of crime in regard to family court matters. Previously, we would refer victims and survivors to other family law attorneys in the area. This, however, was a challenge for our clients because most of the attorneys charge for their services and there was a language barrier. Now that we have LAV funding, we are able to hire and retain a family law attorney and a bilingual family law paralegal. We are able to process more cases and maintain constant communication in regard to the cases, without having to go through third parties.

LA ESPERANZA, DELAWARE



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Through the LAV Program, we have increased the number of people we can serve; improved inter-agency referral systems, as well as referral systems within all program areas; and improved the quality of services we can provide to survivors of sexual assault. We have improved our services for survivors of sexual assault by developing expertise and best practices through inter-agency collaboration, and by increasing awareness among our staff of issues facing survivors of sexual assault and resources available for them. The Healing with Justice Project has made the Family Violence Law Center a visible ally for sexual assault survivors in the community. This has resulted in partnerships that would not be possible without LAV funding.

FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW CENTER, CALIFORNIA



### SC • Grantee Perspective

LAV funding allowed Hopeful Horizons to hire a full-time paralegal, whose litigation support and assistance to the attorney and Hopeful Horizons' Legal Program in general has resulted in significant improvements in efficiency. The paralegal not only makes it possible for Hopeful Horizons' legal team to serve more clients, she also permits Hopeful Horizons to become involved in more intricate issues that result in more lengthy and complex litigation.

HOPEFUL HORIZONS (FORMERLY CITIZENS OPPOSED TO DOMESTIC ABUSE), SOUTH CAROLINA

## Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Implement, expand, and establish cooperative efforts and projects between domestic violence and sexual assault victim services organizations and legal assistance providers to help victims of domestic/sexual violence; and
- Implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic/sexual violence by organizations with a demonstrated history of providing such direct legal or advocacy services.

## VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose area to this program:

- Implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide competent, supervised pro bono legal assistance for victims of domestic/sexual violence.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under the added purpose area could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **272** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **17** (6%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
  - Implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide legal assistance for victims of domestic/sexual violence by organizations with a demonstrated history of providing direct legal or advocacy services on behalf of these victims.



## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide direct legal services, training, and mentoring for lawyers representing victims, and support services for victims, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **272** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **411** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support staff attorneys and victim advocates.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with LAV grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>411</b>	
Attorneys	<b>235</b>	<b>57%</b>
Victim advocates	<b>43</b>	<b>10%</b>
Paralegals	<b>39</b>	<b>9%</b>
Legal advocates	<b>36</b>	<b>9%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Pro Bono Attorneys and Law Students

The civil justice system can address the needs of victims of violence in many ways. Law schools, licensure programs, continuing legal education programs, pro bono projects, and law firms can provide and receive training on the many complex legal issues that victims face. Grantees may coordinate efforts between law firms and law schools, local and state bar associations, victim services organizations, and legal services programs to provide quality representation to victims.

- Grantees recruited **2,499** pro bono attorneys, trained **2,968** pro bono attorneys, and mentored **3,373** pro bono attorneys.
  - Of those trained and mentored, pro bono attorneys accepted **4,199** and completed **3,427** cases.
- Grantees recruited **2,846** law students, trained **2,951** law students, and mentored **2,038** law students.
  - Law students worked on an average of **6,009** cases during each 6-month period.



### NY • Grantee Perspective

The LAV program funding has allowed our organization to hire a full-time immigration attorney/representative who dedicates her time exclusively to this project. Additionally, the LAV program funding allows us to have a dedicated bilingual advocate in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Suffolk County; prior to the LAV Program funding, Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk did not have an attorney on staff for the clients we serve. Most of our client population are low income and therefore unable to afford hiring a private attorney. With LAV Program funding we are able to refer clients in need of legal representation to our part-time LAV-funded attorney.

**VICTIMS INFORMATION BUREAU OF SUFFOLK, NEW YORK**



### IA • Grantee Perspective

One of the most far-reaching impacts of the LAV grant for Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) Legal Clinic has been our ability to restart the partnership with University of Iowa College of Law Citizen Lawyer Program. This provides us an opportunity to educate the next generation of attorneys about the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault through direct contact with survivors and their legal issues. The number of survivors needing legal help is larger than the LAV grant alone could ever hope to address. We hope the students' experience ripples out to increase the pool of resources available to help survivors.

**IOWA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



### WI • Grantee Perspective

This funding, while it may not allow us to provide all services pro bono, has dramatically increased our abilities to provide quality pro bono assistance to survivors of SA and DV. We have met with over 1,000 survivors since receiving this funding and helped coordinate services, helped them to identify immigration and family law options, and opened pro bono cases under the LAV grant.

**END DOMESTIC ABUSE WISCONSIN**



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Prior to LAV funding, rape and sexual assault victims in MA did not have access to trauma-informed, survivor-centered, holistic civil legal services to help stabilize and rebuild their lives following sexual violence. LAV funding has allowed the Victim Rights Law Center to train service providers, law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, and others in order to integrate civil legal services into a coordinated community response to sexual violence.

VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER, MASSACHUSETTS



### MD • Grantee Perspective

Without LAV funding, staff would not be able to participate in the wide array of conferences and continuing education programs to improve their knowledge of family law, immigration, and the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Not only can staff reap the benefits of studying emerging laws and trends, but they also benefit from meeting others in the field and establishing a network of support throughout the country.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/SPOUSE ABUSE RESOURCE CENTER, INC., MARYLAND



### KS • Grantee Perspective

The LAV Project has allowed Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence to be a primary resource for technical assistance across the state for advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice and victim service professionals on legal matters impacting victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. In addition, this project has allowed for networking, outreach, and training to attorneys across the state, especially in rural areas, to build their capacity to take on immigration, sexual assault, and complex family law matters, providing a network of qualified attorneys the Coalition can reach out to when survivors are in need of legal services.

KANSAS COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## Training

The 2013 reauthorization removed previously authorized purpose areas under the LAV Program that permitted grantees to provide training with their grant funds. The information below comes from grantees whose awards were made in FY 2013 and earlier years, before the VAWA 2013 changes went into effect. As such, these activities were reported with less frequency and at lower volumes in the periods covered by this report than in periods covered in earlier Reports to Congress.

Grantees provide training for lawyers and other professionals who serve victims of domestic/sexual violence facing complex legal issues. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **160** (59%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **2,024** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **50,139** people.
- Most often these trainings reached attorneys (**27%**), victim advocates (**15%**), law students (**9%**), law enforcement officers (**7%**), and multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**7%**).

## Technical Assistance

The 2013 reauthorization removed previously authorized purpose areas under the LAV Program that permitted grantees to provide technical assistance with their grant funds. The information below comes from grantees whose awards were made in FY 2013 and earlier years, before the VAWA 2013 changes went into effect. As such, these activities were reported with less frequency and at lower volumes in the periods covered by this report than in periods covered in earlier Reports to Congress.

To improve the professional response to victims of domestic/sexual violence, grantees provide technical assistance to a range of professionals, including attorneys, victim advocates, judges, legal services staff, mediators, friends of the court, and guardians ad litem. Technical assistance encompasses a wide range of topics, such as training on identifying legal issues, assisting victims with securing protection orders, guidance on immigration paperwork, and/or preparing for a divorce trial.

- **109** (40%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees most frequently reported providing technical assistance to victim advocates (**27%**), attorneys (**23%**), legal services staff (**18%**), and prosecutors (**11%**).

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. Beyond traditional legal services, lawyers and non-lawyers provide safety planning and other support services. The partnerships between legal services providers and victim services organizations allow grantees to increase the number and type of support services they offer. The need for legal services includes emergency access to protection orders, legal representation in divorce and custody matters, housing, economic assistance, employment advocacy, and immigration assistance. **Victims require competent legal representation so they can become and remain safe from violence.**

- **269** (99%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **28,204** victims during each 6-month period.
- **93%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

## Non-legal Victim Services

Grantees provide support services and safety planning as needed.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grant-funded lawyers provided:

- Safety planning to **10,487** victims;
- Support services to **4,177** victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services to **940** victims.

### During each 6-month period, on average, other grant-funded staff provided:

- Safety planning to **9,302** victims;
- Support services to **6,119** victims;
- Non-attorney legal advocacy services to **5,710** victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services to **509** victims.

## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (78%).

*Victims with children are particularly vulnerable because offenders routinely use the courts to challenge custody, child support, and visitation arrangements. Furthermore, judges and court-appointed third parties, like mediators and custody evaluators, do not necessarily have the requisite understanding of domestic violence and their decisions and recommendations do not always account for the safety needs of domestic violence victims and their children (Saunders, 2015).*



### KY • Grantee Perspective

These funds allow us to serve about 29% more victims and provide 55% more long-term assistance with divorce, custody, and immigration issues than we otherwise could. With LAV funds, we can serve the most vulnerable victims in our service area, rural and immigrant victims. About 34% of our cases for this reporting period are immigration issues. We are representing undocumented immigrant victims who were very isolated because of a lack of family support, their immigration status which mainly kept them hidden; and their inability to speak the language. Without this funding, that service would not be available.

LEGAL AID OF THE BLUEGRASS, KENTUCKY



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Thanks to our LAV funding, our clients firstly have access to attorneys who are trained in domestic violence and disability, but also who work closely with counselors specializing in both domestic violence and disability. LAV has allowed us to remain open to taking on new and complex cases for direct representation and advocacy. With a high demand for civil legal attorneys in Queens, we are able to fill this gap and provide representation that is both sensitive to and focused on serving victims with disabilities.

URBAN JUSTICE CENTER, NEW YORK



**FL • Grantee Perspective**

Before LAV funding we could only make suggestions and refer to an out-of-county, limited legal service. Victims who were not ready to leave their abuser, emotionally or financially, knew that we would be here to help when they were ready. And now, because of the stability LAV funding has provided, those same victims have returned and found the help they need still available years later. Knowing Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies is available whether a month from now or a year from now, allows a victim to trust that recovery, stability, and safety is attainable.

**CENTER FOR ABUSE AND RAPE EMERGENCIES, INC., FLORIDA**



**NY • Grantee Perspective**

Each year Domestic Violence Program (DVP) serves approximately 300 clients from 20 different Latin American countries. LAV funds have allowed us to increase the number of clients served while maintaining our holistic interdisciplinary approach. With these funds, DVP has been able to expand its offerings by not only focusing on our clients' immigration status but by also providing the necessary services to stabilize them in the community with the goal of serving as a catalyst for survivors seeking safety and resources to help them live a life free of violence.

**NORTHERN MANHATTAN IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION, NEW YORK**



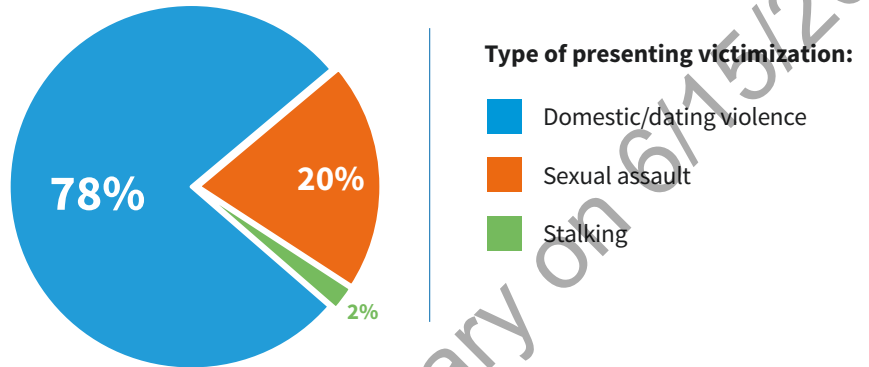
**FL • Grantee Perspective**

LAV funds have allowed us to contract with domestic violence centers to provide victims with safety planning, non-attorney legal advocacy, and support services which are coordinated with the legal services provided by our attorneys. As a result, the victims we serve are better able to overcome obstacles which might hinder their ability to leave their abusers and are better able to become self-sufficient and permanently end their abusive relationships.

**BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES INC., FLORIDA**

**Figure 1** Provision of victim services by LAV Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**Table 2** Victims seeking services with LAV grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>30,240</b>	
Victims served	24,226	80%
Victims partially served	3,977	13%
Victims not served	2,036	7%

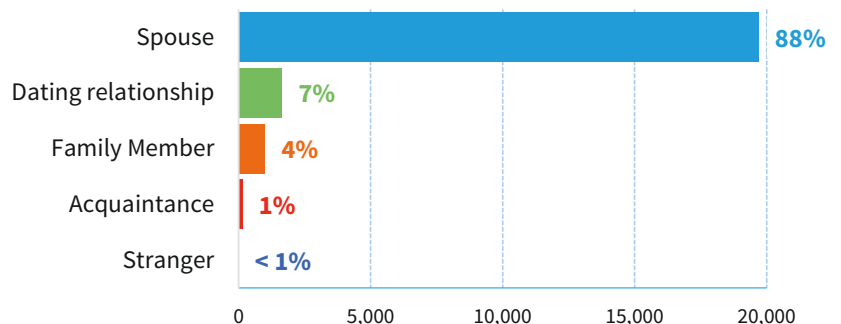
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the LAV Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the LAV Program grant.

**Victims' Relationship to Offender**

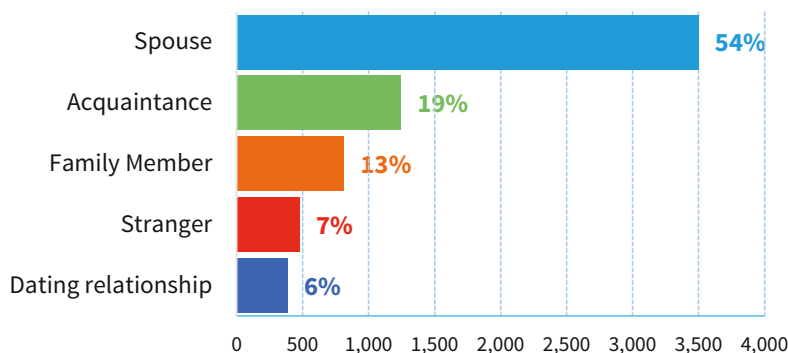
Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (80%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (7%) or by another **family or household member** (6%).

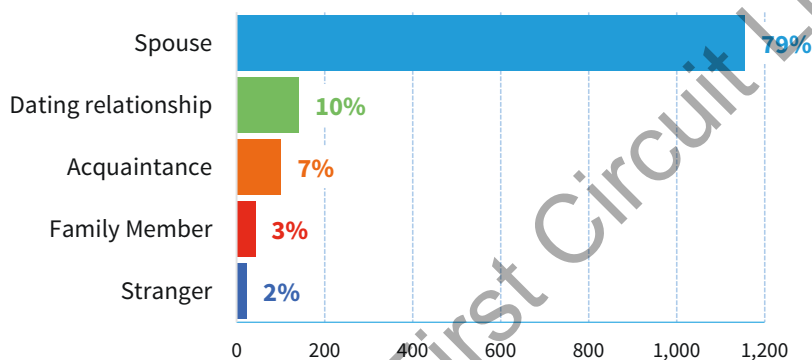
**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: Domestic/dating violence (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault**  
(6-month average)



**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**  
(6-month average)



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

LAV funding empowers partners to provide advocacy and legal representation to a client with multiple legal issues, saving that client from having to develop rapport and trust with additional attorneys especially due to the sensitive nature of the facts of their cases. The LAV Program ensures that victims have access to a highly trained and qualified attorney, who is not only knowledgeable about legal matters but also knowledgeable about victimization and tactics of control that abusive partners may utilize. This is invaluable in ensuring a process that feels supportive and effective for survivors.

LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY, NEW YORK



#### TX • Grantee Perspective

This funding has provided our ten county service area with a legal team focused on serving this unique population which is most in need of legal services. The funding has expanded our range of services and allowed us to pursue a deeper partnership with our named domestic violence/sexual assault partner agencies who are often first responders to this vulnerable population. This project gives victims the ability to receive holistic legal and non-legal services through collaboration of service providers.

LONE STAR LEGAL AID, TEXAS

## Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or partially served:

- Program unable to provide services because of limited resources;
- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements;
- Program reached capacity;
- Conflict of interest; or
- Services were not appropriate for victim.

## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **28,204** victims during each 6-month period. Victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (42%), **female** (94%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (79%).

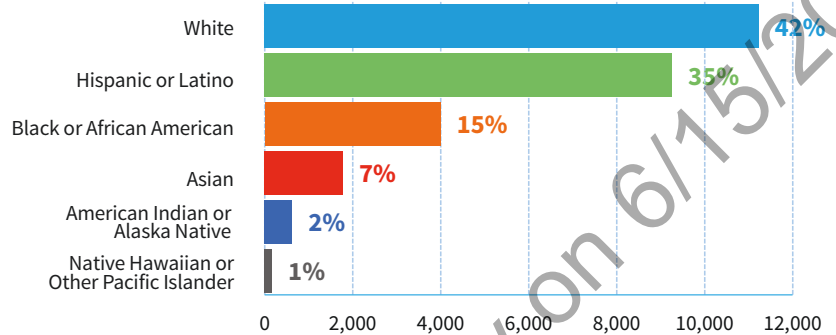


**PA • Grantee Perspective**

LAV Program funding allowed the victim services advocate to be present in the abuse filing unit in Philadelphia’s Family Court. For the first time older victims of domestic violence are receiving assistance with filing and are screened at the courthouse for services and referrals. The victim service advocate is able to direct victim clients to additional benefit programs, to provide additional advocacy to ensure the safety of the victim client and provides valuable paralegal type support to the project attorneys.

**SENIOR LAW CENTER, PENNSYLVANIA**

**Figure 5** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

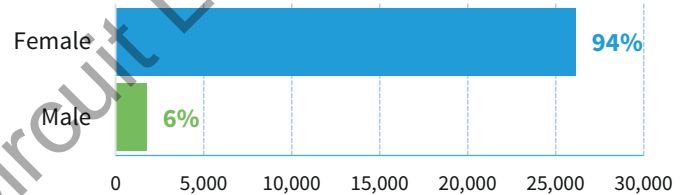


**AR • Grantee Perspective**

Before receiving this grant, Peace at Home helped clients file for protection orders, safety planned with them, prepared them for court, and gave them attorney referrals. Unfortunately, that’s all we were able to do. As a result of this LAV grant, we are now able to provide free direct legal representation to victims of domestic violence. This takes a lot of emotional and financial strain off our clients.

**PEACE AT HOME FAMILY SHELTER, INC., ARKANSAS**

**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

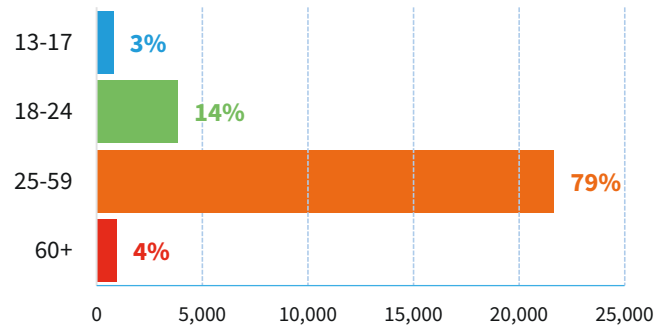


**ND • Grantee Perspective**

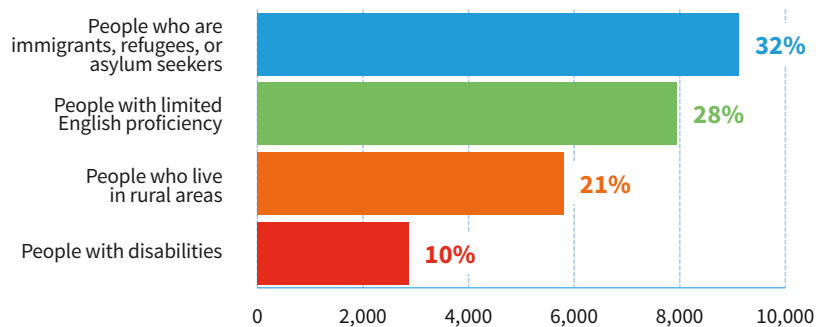
Through LAV funding, Community Violence Intervention Center has been able to provide holistic services, including free legal assistance, to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It has enabled the LAV team to serve survivors who do not have resources or serve survivors whose partners use financial control as another tool to continue the pattern of power and control. The funding has given victims a stronger voice in their own civil legal matters and has provided survivors with a fair shot against their abusers who attempt to use the court system against them.

**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CENTER, NORTH DAKOTA**

**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)

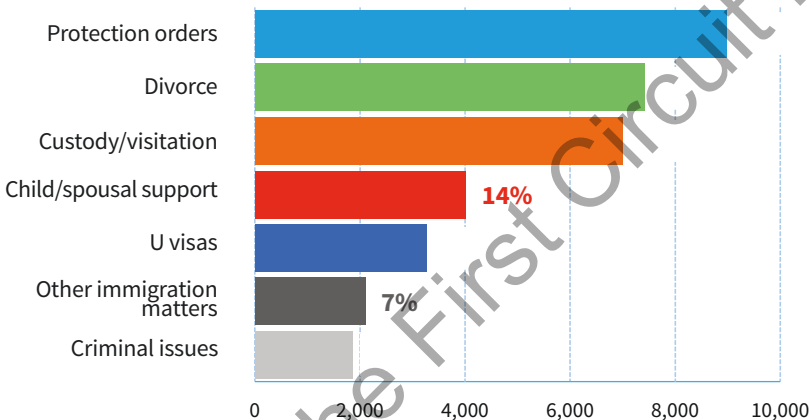


## Legal Services

Grantees represent victims of domestic/sexual violence in a variety of legal matters, including family law (divorce, child custody, and visitation), protection orders, immigration, and housing.

- Grantees addressed an average of **40,816** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **6,436** victims (23% of those receiving services).
- Grantees achieved a total of **105,162** legal outcomes.
- Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and divorces.

**Figure 9** Victims who received assistance with legal issues addressed by LAV Program grantees, July 2015–June 2017 (6-month average)



**Table 3** Outcomes of legal issues addressed by LAV Program grantees, July 2015–June 2017

Legal matter	Outcomes (N=105,543)		Information/referrals/advice	Court decision	Brief services	Negotiated resolution/ filed action
	N	%				
Protection order	28,739	27%	32%	34%	12%	12%
Child custody/ visitation	19,379	18%	48%	21%	13%	11%
Divorce	18,102	17%	51%	17%	14%	9%
Child/spousal support	9,793	9%	49%	22%	11%	11%

**NOTE:** Outcomes data represent issues disposed of, not the number of victims. Percentages for outcomes are based on the number of issues disposed of in each category; not all categories of outcomes or legal matters are included. Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

### TN • Grantee Perspective

Perhaps the greatest area of need that was previously unmet, and the one that LAV funding has allowed us to expand, is increased representation for victims of domestic violence in contested divorce cases. These cases are often time-consuming and very emotional, both for the attorney and their client. Legal Aid of East Tennessee (LAET) attorneys are able to assist domestic violence victims with maintaining custody of their minor children, obtaining child support and rehabilitative alimony, relieving victims of marital debt, being awarded marital homes and property, and finally, gaining their freedom from physically, financially and emotionally oppressive marriages to their abusers. LAV funds allow LAET staff to help victims with these types of financial issues, which are a direct result of the abuse they endured.

### LEGAL AID OF EAST TENNESSEE

### CA • Grantee Perspective

LAV funding has allowed BayLegal to expand the areas in which we provide services to DV survivors, to focus on particularly vulnerable populations, and steadily to increase the number of sexual assault and stalking survivors being served by our collaborative. In some of our counties, such as San Francisco, there is county funding for providing services to victims of domestic violence, but this funding is restricted to providing services to residents of San Francisco. DV victims who have fled the county or whose abuser has filed a case against them in SF are not eligible for services with county funds. LAV permits us to provide these services to survivors who otherwise might fall through the cracks and have to defend themselves without counsel.

### BAY AREA LEGAL AID, CALIFORNIA



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Courts in a busy urban area such as Greater Boston are under-resourced and overburdened. In Greater Boston, Family Court is the division of the Trial Court with the highest percentage of unrepresented litigants; over 85% of litigants in Family Court are unrepresented. Civil legal services providers remain understaffed and unable to meet the demand for their services. For immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence, the challenges of navigating the legal system alone are compounded by linguistic and cultural barriers, in addition to safety concerns and fear. Therefore, full representation in family law and immigration matters remains a significant area of need for survivors of abuse.

CASA MYRNA VAZQUEZ, MASSACHUSETTS



### MN • Grantee Perspective

Victims also need more non-legal help. Mental health support from trauma-informed therapists is a critical need. In particular, there continues to be a need for additional free and low-cost mental health providers who are culturally and linguistically appropriate for non-English speaking clients. In the Willmar area, which has a large immigrant population, mental health services are only available through an interpreter.

MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL ASSISTANCE



### MD • Grantee Perspective

Access to high-quality, culturally-competent legal assistance continues to present challenges for survivors in need given limited availability of service providers and continued demand for services in our region. Need among our target population is driven not only by the disproportionately high incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault among the general target population, but also by a variety of special barriers to services for immigrant women, including limited English proficiency, cultural barriers, lack of understanding of legal options, and low income, and by an exceptional dearth of legal services which are culturally and linguistically appropriate for immigrant survivors.

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER, MARYLAND

## Remaining Areas of Need

Though grantees have made significant inroads in serving low-income victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, they frequently cited the need for **more attorneys, victim advocates, and paralegals** to serve a greater number of victims and to provide more comprehensive services for their clients. In particular, grantees mentioned the need for:

- Family law attorneys able to represent clients in custody and divorce cases;
- Attorneys capable of working on complex immigration cases; and
- Legal services related to the collateral consequences of domestic violence, including housing, personal property, consumer protection, and child support.

Grantees reported numerous **difficulties meeting the needs of immigrant victims and victims with limited English proficiency**. These needs included:

- A need for more qualified interpreters;
- A shortage of bilingual advocates and attorneys;
- Better translation of court documents and informational materials;
- Culturally-informed and linguistically-appropriate mental health services;
- Greater availability of immigration legal services;
- Cooperation with law enforcement in pursuing U visa applications;
- Addressing the backlog of U visa applications; and
- Combatting fears of deportation in order to encourage reporting.

Grantees noted that low-income victims **face significant financial burdens**, which can jeopardize their safety. These include:

- Access to housing, transportation, food, and child care;
- Difficulty securing stable employment with a living wage;
- Consumer credit issues stemming from victimization; and
- Costs associated with litigation, such as mediation, guardian ad litem fees, and expert testimony.

Additionally, grantees pointed to the need for **low-cost mental health services for victims and families, especially those with limited English proficiency**.



Grantees emphasized the need to **improve outreach and services to chronically underserved populations**, especially:

- Immigrants, refugees, and victims with limited English proficiency;
- Victims in remote rural areas;
- LGBTQ populations; and
- Young victims, including high school and college students.

Grantees also cited a need for **better training of judges, court personnel, and law enforcement**, especially around issues of:

- Trauma-informed practice;
- Immigration and U visa applications;
- Proper investigation and identification of primary aggressor; and
- Child custody.



#### CA • Grantee Perspective

A new area that has not been prioritized by legal services in the past is providing legal representation to student victims of sexual assault both in their civil cases and the administrative processes with the school. In many universities students feel unsupported and are hesitant to report the sexual assault to the administration. Sexual assault on college campuses is severely underreported. With outreach, education, and legal representation students can feel empowered to seek remedies both within their university and through the civil court process with the filing of a civil restraining order. Students need legal services because they often do not have the resources to obtain counsel. Attorneys can help the students get the protective orders they need, protect their rights as victims under California's Victims' Bill of Rights, and represent them in the administrative process when the school determines what will be the proper discipline for a student who has sexually assaulted another student.

**NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



#### IL • Grantee Perspective

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation sees the continued lack of education of the legal system on issues of sexual assault, victim behavior, and the neurobiology of sexual trauma as the most significant area of remaining need. This need is most palpable when we represent survivors of sexual violence under the Civil No Contact Order (CNCO) Act in the Domestic Violence courthouse in Chicago. Judges continue to disbelieve survivors and question their behavior when it seems "counter-intuitive" to them, even when the behavior has been a documented response of trauma survivors. Additionally, as these judges more routinely adjudicate cases of physical and verbal domestic violence, they seem confused by and unprepared for the specific legal and evidentiary requirements of the CNCO Act and the issue of sexual assault in general.

**CHICAGO ALLIANCE AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ILLINOIS**

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Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program

The Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program (Rural Program) recognizes that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse who live in rural communities face unique challenges and barriers to receiving assistance rarely encountered in urban areas, including:

- Geographic isolation;
- Poor economic structure;
- Strong social and cultural pressures;
- Lack of available services in rural jurisdictions; and
- Lack of anonymity and security when seeking shelter services.

THESE CHALLENGES SIGNIFICANTLY COMPOUND PROBLEMS FACING those seeking support to end violence in their lives. They also complicate the criminal justice system's ability to investigate and prosecute cases, and create difficulties for victim service providers to identify and assist victims.

## 169 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 169 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Rural Program.

## 13,832 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 13,832 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 2,080 Calls for Assistance

Grantees fielded a total of 2,080 calls to law enforcement for assistance.

*Rural victims of domestic/sexual violence who seek to become and remain safe from violence face geographic challenges in reaching service providers. They may need to travel great distances, and there may be limited public transportation services in their communities. In one study, over 25% of women in small rural and isolated areas lived more than 40 miles from the closest service provider, compared to less than 1% of women in urban settings (Adi, 2017; Peek-Asa et al., 2011).*



### NE • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed project staff to provide life-changing legal assistance for the victims served by this project, resulting in victims achieving financial security, increased safety for themselves and their families, and autonomy. Funding has also allowed staff to create professional relationships with law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges, which will increase the opportunities for other victims not served through this funding to achieve the same results.

**NEBRASKA COALITION TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Rural Program enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting projects uniquely designed to identify, address, respond to, and prevent these crimes in rural America. Purpose areas include:

- Implement, expand, and establish collaborative initiatives among law enforcement officers; prosecutors; victim advocates; healthcare providers, including sexual assault forensic examiners; and related parties to investigate and prosecute these crimes;
- Provide treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance to adult and minor victims; and
- Work cooperatively with rural communities to develop education and prevention strategies that address their unique social, economic, and geographic conditions.

In addition to these purpose areas, as of VAWA 2013, Rural grantees must implement one or more of the following strategies:

- Develop multidisciplinary teams focusing on high risk cases with the goal of preventing domestic and dating violence homicides;
- Increase treatment, counseling, advocacy, and legal assistance;
- Develop education and prevention strategies;
- Develop, enlarge, or strengthen programs addressing sexual assault; and
- Focus on the needs of victims residing in remote rural and geographically isolated areas.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under one of the added areas could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **169** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **35** (21%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
  - Provide treatment, counseling, advocacy, and other assistance to adult and minor victims.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, law enforcement, prosecution, and probation, among other services, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **165** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **384** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>384</b>	
Victim advocates	<b>140</b>	<b>36%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>66</b>	<b>17%</b>
Trainers	<b>31</b>	<b>8%</b>
Administrators	<b>27</b>	<b>7%</b>
Support staff	<b>18</b>	<b>5%</b>

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



### OR • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed the agency to continue providing trauma-informed services in the rural areas of Clackamas County to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and elder abuse. The Rural Advocate is primarily stationed between the two satellite offices in Estacada and Sandy and provides case management in home when appropriate. Presence in the rural communities expanded services to participants who were otherwise geographically isolated, lacking transportation, or were generally unaware of supports in their own communities.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY HEALTH, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, OREGON



### NE • Grantee Perspective

Grant funds have allowed us to take advantage of the passage of the Lindsay Ann Burke law in Nebraska requiring education about dating violence in schools. As a result, we have spoken to thousands of students about violence against women. Ultimately, the impact of this outreach may be the most significant accomplishment of this project. If even a percentage of these students are able to use this education and awareness to lead healthier, violence-free lives or be better prepared to respond to people experiencing violence, the impact can be great.

FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL, NEBRASKA



### MT • Grantee Perspective

As a result of Rural Grant funding for outreach and education, The Friendship Center (TFC) has developed great relationships with the two local middle schools. Both schools welcome TFC into their Health class to discuss healthy relationships and red flags of dating violence. This relationship has also benefited TFC through the school's Day of Service event. A large group of students chaperoned by teachers, typically those that have not previously visited TFC, come to tour TFC, learn about services, and provide volunteer assistance with community donations or creating victim information packets. These events have brought better awareness of domestic and sexual violence dynamics, healthy relationships, and TFC services to students, teachers, and parents in the Helena community.

THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER, MONTANA

## Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, and mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence. **This training improves professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **131** (78%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **3,236** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **45,162** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**17%**), law enforcement officers (**12%**), educators (**11%**), and health professionals (**8%**).

## Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**<sup>i</sup>

- **135** (80%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **10,696** education events.
- Grantees educated a total of **334,195** people.

**Table 2** | People educated with Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:  
Selected groups

People members educated	2-year total	
<b>Total people educated</b>	<b>334,195</b>	
Community members	97,210	29%
Middle and high school students	94,009	28%
Elementary school students	51,966	16%
University or college students	30,838	9%
Parents or guardians	18,055	5%
Community groups	17,366	5%

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

<sup>i</sup> Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and/or child sexual abuse. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or child sexual abuse that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims. All victims receive safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **150** (89%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **13,832** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **9,275** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **7,614** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **3,667** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **3,391** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **2,847** victims;
- Transportation services to **1,575** victims; and
- Civil legal assistance services to **928** victims.

### Other Services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **20,307** times;
- Grantees received a total of **165,678** hotline calls.
  - The majority of these calls (**52%**) came from victims.

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

**Table 3** | Victims sheltered with Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	<b>1,263</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>145,158</b>
Transitional housing	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>37,693</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>182,851</b>

## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (80%).



### KS • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed us to provide intensive technical assistance and training opportunities specifically for rural and western Kansas SA/DV programs and their communities. It has allowed us to focus on programs and communities in western Kansas to help them create and maintain community partnerships which help provide comprehensive services and better responses to survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

**KANSAS COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



### OR • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program funding has allowed the agency to assess services for rural survivors and make adjustments to meet the ongoing needs of the communities. In the past year and a half we have learned that many survivors from the rural community prefer to access services at A Safe Place Family Justice Center for Clackamas County due to the multiple partners and video court access. Accessing services all in one place has reduced the amount of times a survivor has had to share their story and reduced the frequency of travel.

**CLACKAMAS WOMEN'S SERVICES, OREGON**



**CO • Grantee Perspective**

Prior to this funding we were always trying to figure out ways to get victims to us; now we can go to them. When partnering agencies call to set up an interview with our organization, we set the appointment immediately. In the past we were reliant on agency assists, which meant a time delay. We are now also able to offer on-site therapy and trauma assessments at our main facility in Montrose. This is something we were never able to do.

**THE DOLPHIN HOUSE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER, COLORADO**



**OR • Grantee Perspective**

The Rural Program revived what were nearly non-existent services for survivors. Oregon Law Center (OLC), Victim Services Providers (VSPs), and community partners, as a result of funding, were able to significantly increase victim advocate services and provide (for the first time in many years in one county) civil legal assistance. In sum, Rural Program funds effectively resurrected legal services to survivors, enhanced the capacity of victim advocates to serve survivors, and resulted in more safety and protection in our service area.

**OREGON LAW CENTER**



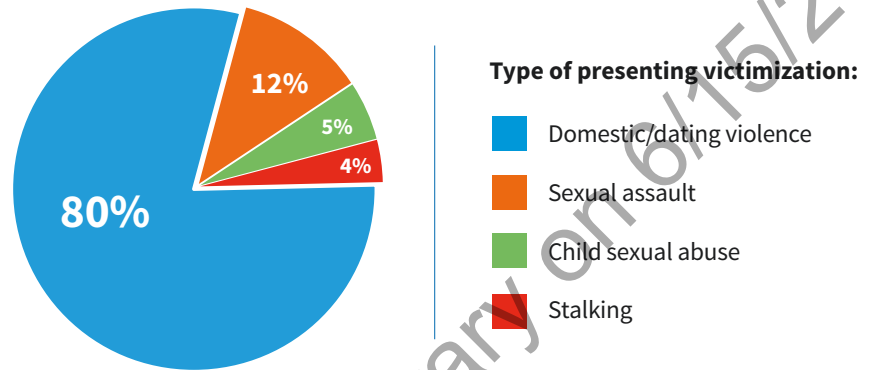
**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

Rural funding is the foundation of all victim services programming in St. Paul, Alaska. It was used to start the program in 2003 and continues to be the bedrock of services in this very remote community. Most recently Rural funding allowed us to begin providing holistic healing services to the community, including art as therapy activities, sensory room for relaxation and stress/anxiety reduction, and weekly “self-care” learning activity classes.

**TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OF ST. PAUL ISLAND**

**Figure 1** Provision of victim services by Rural Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**Table 4** Victims seeking services with Rural grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>13,926</b>	
Victims served	13,614	98%
Victims partially served	218	2%
Victims not served	95	1%

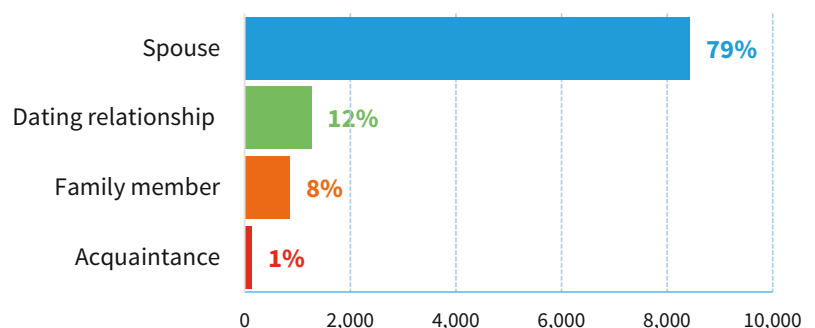
**NOTE:** “Partially Served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Rural Program grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Rural Program grant.

**Victims’ Relationship to Offender**

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

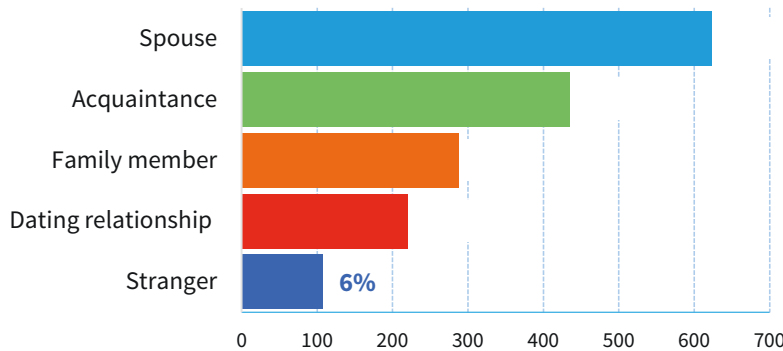
- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (69%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (12%) or by another **family or household member** (12%).

**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)





**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual Assault**  
(6-month average)

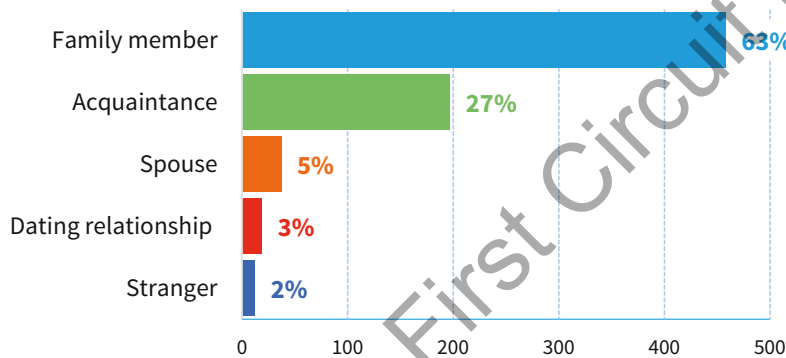


**WV • Grantee Perspective**

Rural Program funding has enabled sexual assault victims in our community to receive specialized forensic medical exams which, without this funding, they would not have received. These specialized exams enabled the collection of evidence that benefited the criminal investigations that ultimately led to charges and convictions in these cases. There is no doubt that this streamlined process for sexual assaults is a direct result of our Rural Program project.

**CHILD PROTECT OF MERCER COUNTY, INC., WEST VIRGINIA**

**Figure 4** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Child sexual abuse**  
(6-month average)

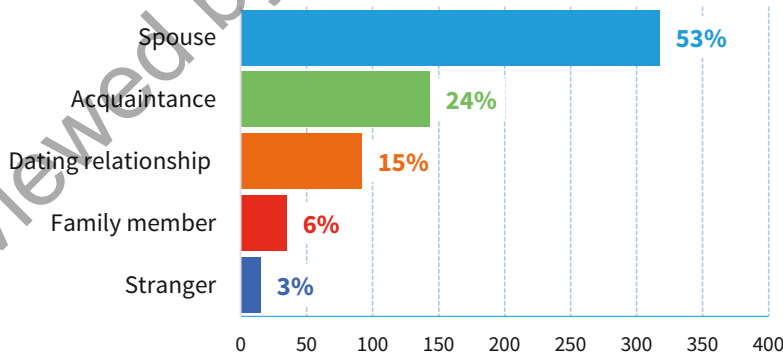


**ND • Grantee Perspective**

This funding has allowed us to provide opportunities for victims to receive legal assistance from qualified attorneys at Legal Services of ND. It has promoted a more holistic approach to victims of domestic and sexual violence allowing not only representation but consultation, referral, and education by attorneys and paralegals. This approach gives survivors a greater opportunity to succeed as they move forward toward a more safe and secure life.

**CAWS NORTH DAKOTA**

**Figure 5** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**  
(6-month average)



**CO • Grantee Perspective**

Rural funding has increased the capacity for legal services for domestic violence victims to include much needed civil legal representation and assistance beyond protection orders. Most often, survivors will need the added assistance of the more complicated processes of filing for custody and divorce, with protection orders being the initial phase of leaving an abusive situation.

**ALTERNATIVE HORIZONS CORPORATION, COLORADO**

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**FL • Grantee Perspective**

The Rural Program grant has allowed Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program (GCSAP) the opportunity to service 4 previously unserved counties. As such it can positively impact more victims/survivors than prior to the grant, when these victims weren't able to obtain services at all. Prior to the rural program grant, victims would often have to drive up to two hours to obtain services for sexual assault. The GCSAP now has offices in six counties, providing more accessibility to advocates for victims/survivors. Survivors of sexual assault can now receive crisis counseling, individual counseling, and therapy, and attend support groups in their county of residence.

**FLORIDA COUNCIL AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served**

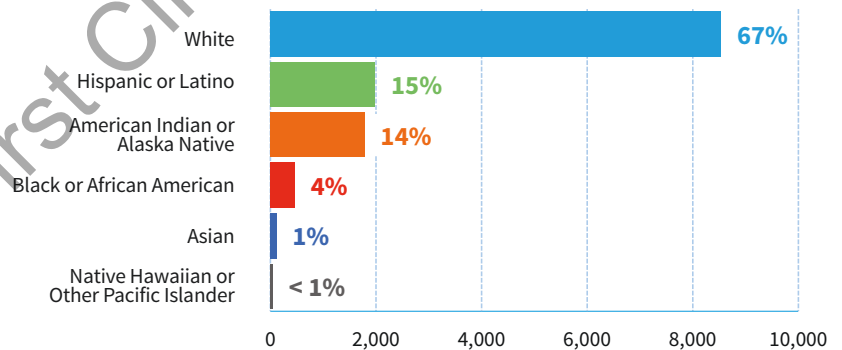
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting;
- Conflict of interest;
- Program reached capacity; or
- Services not appropriate for victim.

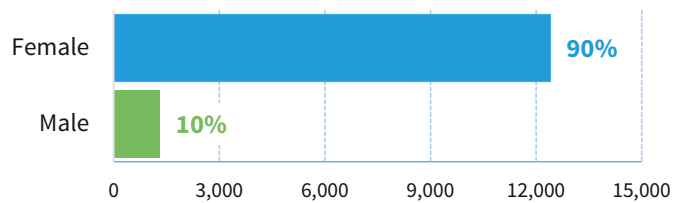
**Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served**

Grantees served or partially served an average of **13,832** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **white** (67%), **female** (90%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (68%).

**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)

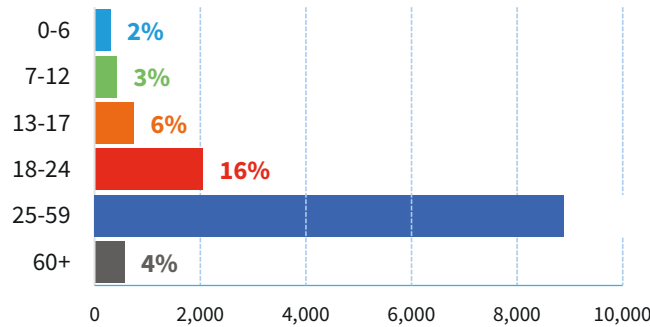


**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



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**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

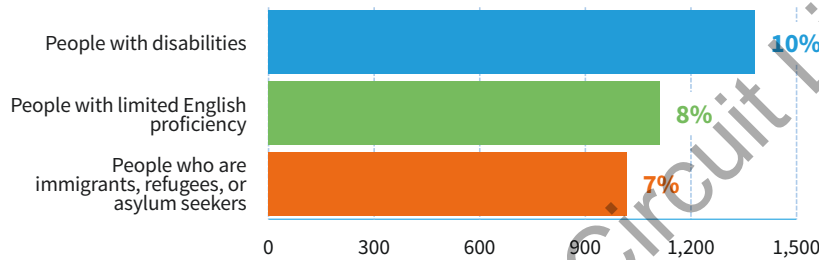


**NC • Grantee Perspective**

Rural Program funding has provided us the opportunity to establish strong, deep roots in our Hispanic community over the years. In the past year, our Hispanic outreach workers and bilingual victim advocates have reported that the community is more open to talking about sexual violence. We have seen a significant increase in the number of Hispanic survivors who seek services.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS SERVICES, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Figure 9** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



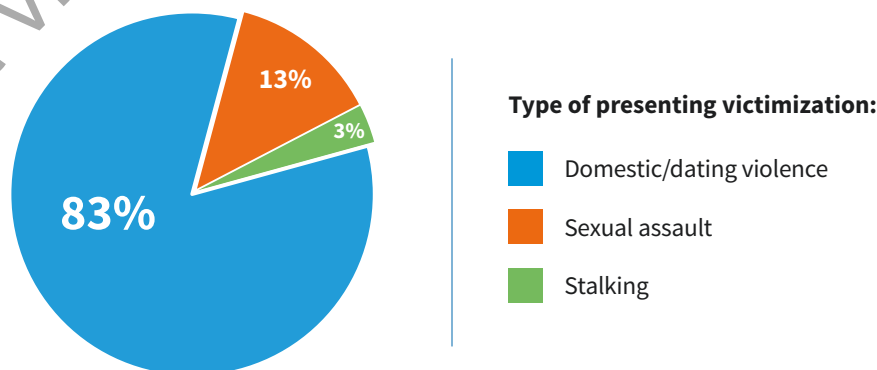
### Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **5,959** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

**Figure 10** Provision of services to secondary victims by Rural Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Secondary victims served and partially served by type of victimization** (6-month average)





### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to employ a full time investigator solely dedicated to work on cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. There is a significant need of law enforcement response to these crimes the amount of cases is overwhelming.

WHITE EARTH RESERVATION TRIBAL COUNCIL

*Without proper training, an officer may not be able to identify the predominant aggressor, may unknowingly minimize a victim's trauma, may fail to collect all relevant evidence, and may mistakenly arrest the victim. Moreover, if an officer sides with an abuser, a victim may not report future assaults. Research shows that law enforcement were most likely to arrest perpetrators when they received training on and followed these best practices: in-person investigating, following up with victims after initial contact, conducting safety planning with victims, assessing the needs of children exposed to the violence, providing victims with 911 telephones, describing protection orders and court procedures, connecting victims with available shelter and services, explaining the effects of domestic violence on children, and helping victims feel safe (Hamby et al., 2015).*



### MT • Grantee Perspective

The Rural Program-funded investigator/detective has had a major and decisive impact in the investigation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child sexual abuse cases. The experience of interacting with a well-trained and dedicated law enforcement officer supports the victims' sense of being heard and believed. If this officer is on the case, calls will be returned and follow-up will be completed to the best of his ability. Additionally, the grant-funded officer has the time and resources to follow-up on in these criminal cases as well as investigate the TOP/OOP violations. Previous to this funding, LE could not respond to all the reported violations for lack of officers and time.

SANDERS COUNTY COALITION FOR FAMILIES,  
MONTANA

## Criminal Justice

The Rural Program promotes a coordinated community response that includes representatives from victim service agencies, child welfare agencies, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, healthcare providers, and public and private community resources.

## Law Enforcement

Grantees address the role of law enforcement in responding to domestic/sexual violence.

- **25** (15%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **2,879** victim referrals to governmental and non-governmental victim services across the 2-year period.

**A proactive response and victim-centered attitude influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.**

A meaningful and serious response by law enforcement agencies includes:

- Documenting all calls for services;
- Actively investigating all sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents;
- Referring cases to prosecutors (as appropriate);
- Seeking warrants and statements of charges (as appropriate);
- Arresting the perpetrator;
- Helping victims secure protection orders;
- Accompanying the victim to the home to retrieve their immediate belongings (as appropriate);
- Making referrals (as appropriate); and
- Providing victims with information about available services.

**Table 5** Law enforcement activities in Rural Program criminal cases, July 2015–June 2017

Law enforcement activities	Sexual assault	Domestic/ dating violence	Stalking	Child sexual abuse	Total
Calls for assistance	214	1,642	70	154	2,080
Incident reports	350	3,204	77	627	4,258
Cases investigated	431	4,047	114	829	5,421
Referrals to prosecutor	254	1,359	50	440	2,103
Arrests of predominant aggressor	133	931	49	303	1,416

**NOTE:** Grantees report only on law enforcement activities that are funded under the Rural Program and they may receive funds for one or for a number of these activities. Therefore, no relationships can be inferred or comparisons made between activities reported here.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees found it particularly difficult to serve victims in rural areas, where **vast distances, challenging economic conditions, and physical isolation** presented **significant barriers** to helping victims escape violence and achieve self-sufficiency. Of the problems inherent in rural areas, some of the most challenging were a **lack of law enforcement, low availability of SANE services, and jurisdictional issues that presented roadblocks to achieving justice, especially on tribal lands and in border communities.**

Due in part to the paucity of services in rural areas, grantees reported **extreme challenges in helping victims meet basic needs**, particularly:

- Affordable long-term housing and emergency shelter;
- Transportation;
- Mental health care and substance abuse counseling;
- Child care;
- Education and employment;
- Civil legal services; and
- Food security.

Rural grantees reported **significant gaps** in available services, especially for **underserved populations**, including:

- American Indians/Alaska Natives;
- Immigrant and refugee victims;
- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- LGBTQ victims;
- Seniors and persons with one or more disabilities.



### MT • Grantee Perspective

The isolated rural area of Mineral County has high rates of poverty, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and unemployment. Last year the Office of Public Assistance closed and MC residents must now apply via phone or internet. The cheapest internet in the County is \$80 per month. Many residents do not have a computer, much less internet access. One client tried to apply for low income energy assistance on her phone only to be timed out three times. All mental health providers are in Superior (the County seat). Many residents don't have cars or gas money to drive to the town.

MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Many of the families we work with are unable to establish independence and safety for themselves because of financial issues. The lack of affordable housing and the inability to relocate without funds for moving or securing a new home prevent people living in abusive situations from seeking safer alternatives. Even when families are able to stay in their homes, they often need support for rent, mortgage payments, or utilities while they try to stabilize their lives. Establishing an income or transitioning from two incomes to one, affording childcare, overcoming potential damage to credit, finding employment, and accessing education are all significant barriers to obtaining a safe situation in the region. Many of the obstacles faced by survivors are magnified because of disproportionate levels of poverty and related issues. In addition to low wages and limited employment and training opportunities, the lack of available childcare and transportation, inaccessible health care, the lack of anonymity, and increased isolation because of the distance from services, neighbors, and friends (as well as limited cell phone and internet service), all contribute to keeping survivors in dangerous situations.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



#### VT • Grantee Perspective

Immigrant services are lacking in our rural white community. We have a farm workforce population of Jamaican and Guatemalan laborers. This population is up against so many barriers. If domestic or sexual violence occurs, unless the police are called by a bystander, these incidents will not be reported. The ever present fear of being deported allows some farm owners to supply housing that is very sub-standard. Limited transportation, lack of any medical care, and a language barrier further add to isolation and vulnerability.

**PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS, VERMONT**



#### NC • Grantee Perspective

Although our community has come a long way in recognizing and responding to the specific needs around sexual violence of all kinds, there is still a significant percentage of survivors who do not report the assault or seek services. There are many reasons why victims do not report; however, we know that the more aware survivors are of easily accessible and available services, the more likely they are to utilize those services. Therefore, we must continue to strive to make our services available to every victim in our community, reaching out to those who are least likely to reach out to us.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE AND RAPE CRISIS SERVICES, NORTH CAROLINA**



#### OR • Grantee Perspective

In regard to enhancing a community response to this personal violence, it is imperative that rural law enforcement become highly skilled in both responding to and investigating abuse. While rural communities are small by population and cover many miles in Clackamas County, that is sometimes what offenders bank on when abusing and as a result are unconcerned about potential consequences. The rural police agencies in Clackamas County respond to the best of their ability and staffing; however, a serious commitment, with funding, to these rural police agencies to support intense training would not only benefit the victim and prosecutor, but also the police agency reputation and success in combating abuse within their communities.

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON**

Grantees cited a number of reasons **service providers, law enforcement, and the court system struggled to fully serve these populations**, including:

- Cultural and linguistic barriers;
- Geographic and physical isolation;
- Victims' fear of discrimination or challenges maintaining anonymity;
- Fear of deportation; and
- Difficulty making the proper accommodations for victims with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Grantees reported ongoing needs for **community education and outreach** in order to:

- Combat stigma and negative stereotypes about victims of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Inform victims and community members of available services; and
- Teach young people about healthy relationships.

Grantees also stressed the need to **expand education and training of law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges** in order to **increase offender accountability**.

# Sexual Assault Services Program—Grants to Culturally Specific Programs

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) was created by VAWA 2005, and is the first federal funding stream dedicated solely to direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. SASP encompasses four different funding streams for states and territories: tribes; tribal organizations and nonprofit tribal organizations; state, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions; and culturally specific organizations.

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES CULTURALLY Specific Grant Program (SASP-CS) is to establish, maintain, and expand sustainable sexual assault services provided by culturally specific organizations. Grantees are nonprofit organizations that focus primarily on culturally specific communities and have experience in the area of sexual assault, or who partner with an organization having such expertise. They provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g. accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, and police departments), support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault; non-offending family and household members of victims; and those collaterally affected by sexual assault.**

## 38 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 38 unique grantees reported activities funded by the SASP-CS Program.

## 1,095 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 1,095 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 380 Secondary Victims Served

On average, grantees served 380 secondary victims during each 6-month reporting period.

*In a national survey, providers (at legal services, social services, and domestic violence and sexual assault programs) who serve immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking related that, when victims called law enforcement, responding officers were able to identify the language spoken by victims in fewer than half of the cases and, in 30% of those cases, unqualified interpreters were used. They further reported that clients experienced bias when courts and law enforcement relied on inappropriate or unqualified interpreters who may intentionally or unintentionally misrepresent the victim's statements (Lee et al., 2013).*

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**CA • Grantee Perspective**

SASP Culturally Specific Program funding has provided Asian Health Services with stability to provide culturally specific services and programming for Southeast Asian young women impacted by sexual assault and sexual exploitation. Applying for grants to serve such a specific population and specific issue area continues to be a struggle for Banteay Srei, as many foundations and funders are seeking to fund organizations that serve a broader base.

**ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES, CALIFORNIA**



**GA • Grantee Perspective**

This grant is allowing us to provide specialized services to sexual assault survivors of all ages that we could not have done before and has built our capacity as an agency. The funds have significantly impacted our partner agency, Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network’s (GAIN) ability to refer our clients to culturally specific interpreters, therapists, and social services. The funding has strengthened our partnership to ensure holistic, wraparound services are available for both of our agencies’ clients that are sensitive to specific cultural perspectives and experiences.

**RAKSHA, INC., GEORGIA**



**CA • Grantee Perspective**

SASP Culturally Specific Program funding allows Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF) to create healing groups and continue engaging the community with a grassroots approach. The healing groups have been an effective means for CPAF to move away from the traditional Western talk-therapy model and toward a more culturally relevant avenue of healing for API SA survivors. Healing groups also encourage community accountability, which CPAF continues to learn how to develop and grow within API communities.

**CENTER FOR THE PACIFIC ASIAN FAMILY, CALIFORNIA**

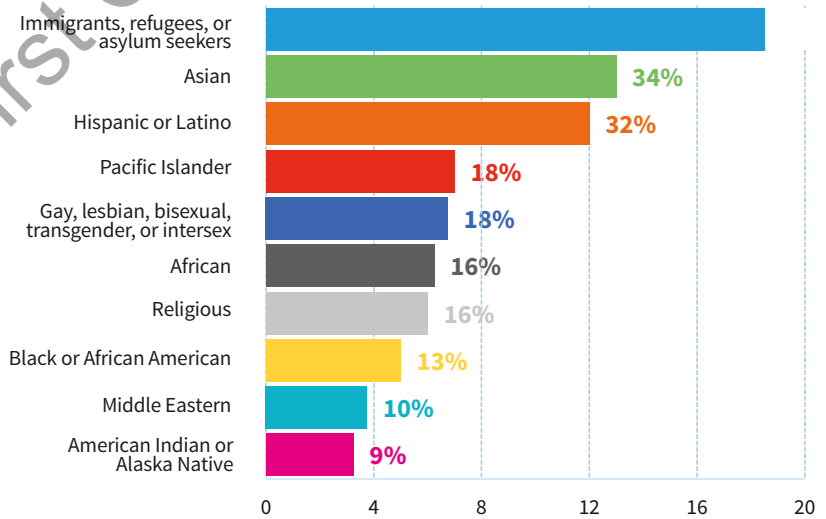
VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons**. VAWA 2013 also modified the focus of SASP-CS by redefining “culturally specific” to mean primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (“American Indians [including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts]; Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics”).

**General Grant Information**

Information for this report was submitted by **38** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **2** (5%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.

**Figure 1** Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2015–June 2017 (6-month average)





## Staff

Grant-funded staff primarily establish, maintain, and expand coordinated community responses within their catchment areas; and provide victim services, including advocacy, crisis intervention, legal assistance, court and hospital accompaniment, and transportation. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **37** (97%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **38** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates, counselors, and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with SASP-CS grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:  
Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>38</b>	
Victim advocates	<b>12</b>	<b>32%</b>
Counselors	<b>9</b>	<b>24%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>9</b>	<b>24%</b>
Administrators	<b>4</b>	<b>11%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Victim Services

Grantees address the specific cultural needs of victims, and may provide crisis intervention, safety planning, and services such as legal advocacy, medical and counseling services from healthcare professionals, and accompaniment to forensic exams and to court. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **37** (97%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,095** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.



### NY • Grantee Perspective

The SASP Culturally Specific Program funding has enabled Shalom Task Force (STF) to build a successful ongoing relationship with our partner agency, the Mount Sinai Beth Israel Support for Orthodox Victims of Rape and Incest (SOVRI) Helpline, which has enabled both agencies to increase their capacity to serve Orthodox Jewish sexual assault victims. STF has trained 20 hotline volunteers during the six year grant period, and provided enhanced training on sexual assault to over 100 STF staff members and volunteer advocates.

**SHALOM TASK FORCE, NEW YORK**

*The lack of culturally sensitive and appropriate services can pose daunting barriers to safety, justice, and healing. Victims may choose not to engage in services or may terminate services early if programs fail to incorporate issues of culture and heritage.*

**Grantees used 24 specific languages for these activities:** Bambara, Bangla, Burmese, Cantonese, Chinese, English, French, Fulani, Gujarati, Hindi, Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Lakota, Mandarin, Marathi, Moore, Nepali, Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

**Grantees used 4 specific languages when responding to these requests for information or assistance:** English, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish.



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

An 18-year-old student, born and raised in Korea, moved to the US alone one year ago for her studies. The client was raped by her Taekwondo instructor, who at the time was posing as her mentor. Immediately after the incident, she went to the local police station alone and reported the rape without any interpretation or support services. She was brought to the hospital for a medical forensic exam but after that she never heard back from either the police or the hospital for the follow-up. One full week after the incident, the client came to the Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC) for the intake assessment after getting connected to KAFSC services through her roommate. Confused and overwhelmed, the client displayed clear signs of severe trauma, which was affecting her ability to think clearly and take necessary actions. The KAFSC counselor, experienced in such cases of sexual assault trauma, calmly explained the next steps, and offered emotional support. She contacted the police and followed up with the detective and hospital. In the meantime, the client received weekly trauma-focused counseling and relaxation therapy to restore her psychological and emotional balance. She referred to the immigration attorney to begin her U-visa application. The client is already showing progress in her recovery and is looking forward to starting college this fall.

**KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTER, NEW YORK**

#### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Support group/counseling services to **762** victims;
- Victim advocacy services to **542** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **476** victims;
- Language services (i.e. interpretation or translation) to **228** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **227** victims;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **179** victims; and
- Transportation services to **160** victims.

#### Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **7,437** times;
- Grantees received a total of **9,227** hotline calls; and
  - Nearly half of these calls (**47%**) came from victims.

#### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided assistance with the following immigration matters:

- U visa services for **56** victims;
- VAWA self-petition services for **35** victims;
- T visa services for **18** victims;
- Work authorization services for **14** victims;
- Cancellation of removal matters for **3** victims; and
- Other immigration matters for **23** victims.

## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault.

**Table 2** | Victims seeking services with SASP-CS grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>1,122</b>	
Victims served	<b>1,057</b>	<b>94%</b>
Victims partially served	<b>38</b>	<b>3%</b>
Victims not served	<b>27</b>	<b>2%</b>

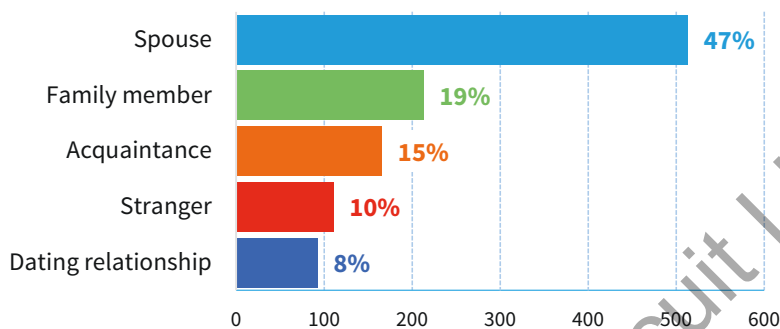
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the SASP-CS grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the SASP-CS grant.

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (47%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (19%) or by an **acquaintance** (15%).

**Figure 2** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



## Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Limited resources/priority setting;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims with mental health issues;
- Transportation;
- Hours of operation; or
- Insufficient/lack of language capacity (including sign language).

## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,095** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (42%), **female** (96%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (77%).



### CA • Grantee Perspective

As a result of this funding Centro La Familia Advocacy (CLFA) Victim Advocates have been able to provide sexual assault intervention services, outreach education, workshops, and support groups to our target population. We have been able to reach and intervene on behalf of Hispanic clients who have been victims of sexual abuse. Through our culturally sensitive approach and training, Victim Advocates have been able to effectively work with victims, providing them with a confidential environment to tell their story and report their crime. Some clients have reported that they would not have otherwise spoken up about it had they not learned about our services because they didn't know who to go to. The fact that we are able to provide services in their native language provides comfort to clients who might not know where to go or who to turn to for support.

**CENTRO LA FAMILIA ADVOCACY SERVICES, INC., CALIFORNIA**



**NY • Grantee Perspective**

The grant funding has allowed Support for Orthodox Victims of Rape and Incest (SOVRI) to increase outreach by organizing speakers to address the issues of sexual abuse in the Orthodox community. This has given way to more people seeking out the SOVRI helpline both as victims and as individuals who are interested in volunteering for the helpline.

**SHALOM TASK FORCE, NEW YORK**

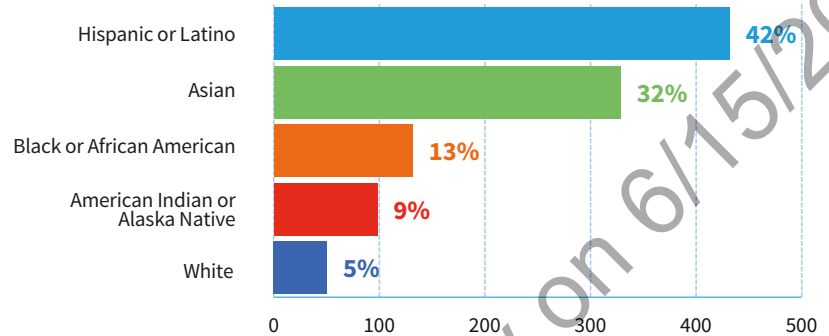


**MN • Grantee Perspective**

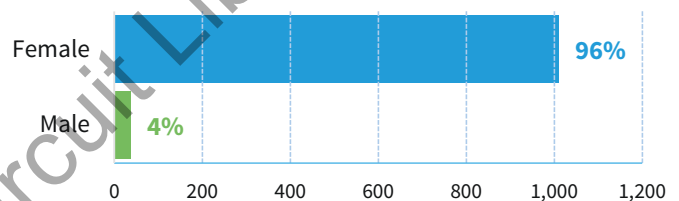
Funding has allowed us to serve more survivors. During this reporting period, 30 primary victims and 45 secondary victims were served. Twenty of these victims are receiving mental health therapy. Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) has been able to improve its in-house referral process for sexual assault survivors and we have ensured that they are able to access this service in a timely, coordinated manner. Ninety percent of the victims were provided with accompaniment through criminal justice, medical, and other support systems.

**COMUNIDADES LATINAS UNIDAS EN SERVICIO, MINNESOTA**

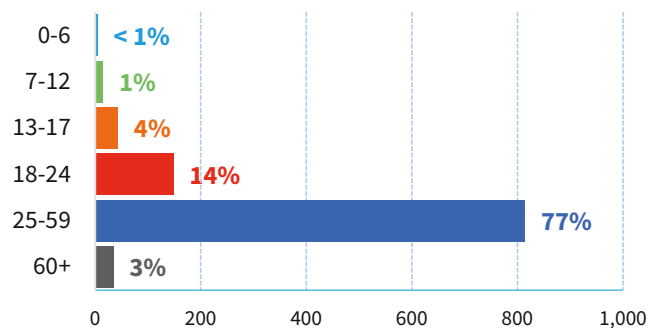
**Figure 3** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



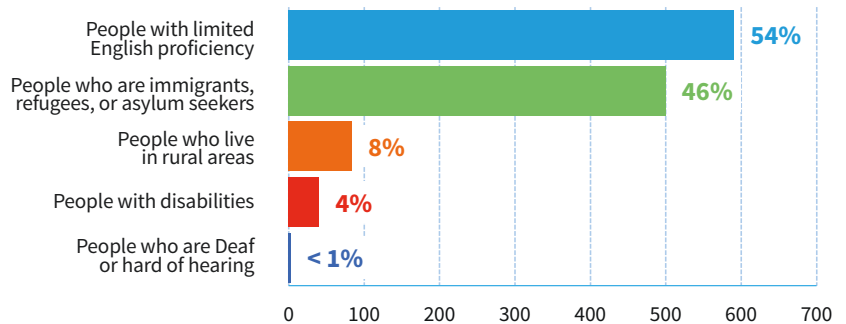
**Figure 4** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 5** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



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## Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by sexual assault, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **380** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited **victims' reluctance to access services and report crimes** as their biggest obstacle to providing services. They attributed this reluctance to a number of factors, including:

- Cultural taboos around discussions of sexual violence;
- Familial pressures to refrain from reporting or disclosing sexual assault;
- Mistrust of law enforcement and fear of deportation;
- A lack of confidentiality and anonymity within some communities;
- Lack of language access and cultural sensitivity among criminal justice professionals;
- Financial and social dependence on abusers;
- Insufficient knowledge of legal rights; and
- Insufficient legal accountability for offenders.

Grantees called for **more community education and outreach** in order to:

- Inform victims of their legal rights;
- Educate communities about sexual assault and healthy relationships;
- Combat victim-blaming and negative stereotypes about victims; and
- Publicize available resources.

Several grantees emphasized the need to provide **training to law enforcement, first responders, and service providers on culturally sensitive, trauma-informed practices**.

Grantees frequently cited challenges in **assisting victims in meeting basic needs**, such as:

- Shelter/housing;
- Transportation;
- Child care;
- Food; and
- Healthcare costs.



### GA • Grantee Perspective

In 2015, Raksha conducted several focus groups, community-based meetings, and informal meetings within metro Atlanta's immigrant and refugee communities. While hosting these events, we discovered that Limited English Proficiency (LEP) victims face unique language-related challenges when attempting to report sexual violence. Additionally, survivors of violence frequently report difficulty escaping abusive situations due to many barriers they faced, such as limited ability in English, access to resources, financial and housing difficulties, threat to child custody, immigration status, etc. Moreover, they are often made to feel that they will not be believed by their abusers and their abusers make themselves appear more powerful than any judicial system. The legal system sometimes reinforces those feelings for individuals who have tried to leave their abusive households.

**RAKSHA, INC., GEORGIA**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

The biggest barrier to providing services for sexual assault victims in the Orthodox Jewish community is getting them in the door. Victims' access to information and intervention services is often limited by community customs and mores which may discourage the use of resources from the secular world. The targeted communities are insular and as a result victims have a difficult time obtaining support for themselves as victims of sexual assault. Although there has been tremendous growth within the Orthodox Jewish community with regard to sexual abuse, it is still considered a taboo topic to many.

**SHALOM TASK FORCE, NEW YORK**



### OH • Grantee Perspective

The response by police and the criminal justice system to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) victims of sexual assault leaves much to be desired. Interpreters are regularly inadequate (poor training, unprofessional, and/or not trained to work with victims of sexual assault) or unavailable (many local police officers are unaware of how to contact the Language Line for interpreter assistance). Court officials have chosen not to accept victims' forms of identification if they were issued by other countries and 911 operators have had discussions with interpreters while victims are on the line, instead of having them interpret.

**OHIO HISPANIC COALITION**



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

In addition to outreach to direct consumers of the services (i.e. primary victims of SA), resources and education [need to be] extended to “informal” support systems - including churches, doctors’ offices, supermarkets, small businesses. Possible consumers of services frequent such places for other needs and training and educating the constituents of those systems can provide another avenue for victims to access help and ultimately gain accessibility to services. Enhancement of community response through a more open and culture specific dialogue is particularly needed in the Asian community due to the collectivist nature of this population. A force greater than the individual itself is necessary for victims to get increased accessibility. Through the community assessment, service providers can gain a better understanding of how to formulate relationships and find common language about sexual violence with the Asian community in a non-judgmental, destigmatizing manner.

**THE KOREAN-AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICES CENTER, INC., NEW YORK**



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

One of the main areas of remaining need, with regard to improving services to sexual assault survivors, remains the provision of culturally nuanced and linguistically-tailored mental health services. Sakhi staff do their utmost to provide clients with as much emotional support as they can to help clients cope with the physical and emotional effects of the sexual violence that they have been subjected to and to help them move forward in life. However, the trauma of sexual assault is deep rooted and very often what clients really need is a qualified mental health counselor who can work with the client to really overcome and slowly slowly move past their experiences. Sakhi regularly refers clients out to trusted hospitals, doctors, and therapists to receive the services that they desperately need. However, the number of therapists who don’t require patients to be insured and who have a deep understanding of the myriad cultural aspects that go into the sexual victimizations of South Asian women is too few. Therefore, our clients very often remain inadequately served - or not served at all.

**SAKHI FOR SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN, NEW YORK**

Many grantees also mentioned a need for more **culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental healthcare services**.

Finally, several grantees noted a need for **greater awareness of and improved services to underserved victims within their communities, including:**

- LGBTQ victims;
- Male victims;
- International students;
- Youth victims; and
- Victims of human trafficking.

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# Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program

The Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program (State Coalitions Program) funds state-level coalitions to collaborate and coordinate with relevant federal, state, and local entities. Coalitions consist primarily of organizational members (e.g. sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, tribal victim services agencies, and other victim services agencies) but may also include individual members.

**STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITIONS AND STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** coalitions play a critical role in advancing the goals of VAWA, serving as a collective voice to end domestic/sexual violence through collaboration with federal, state, and local organizations.

## 93 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 93 unique grantees reported activities funded by the State Coalitions Program.

## 118,990 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 118,990 people.

## 98,659 Technical Assistance Activities

Grantees provided 95,546 consultations and 3,113 site visits.

## Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Coordinate state victim services activities; and
- Collaborate and coordinate with federal, state, and local entities engaged in domestic/sexual violence activities, including but not limited to:
  - Provide training and technical assistance (TA) to member agencies;
  - Expand the technological capacity of coalitions and/or member agencies; and
  - Bring local programs together to identify gaps in services and to coordinate activities.

*Coalitions play a number of roles in responding to domestic/sexual violence: they serve as governing or organizing bodies for local agencies; advocate for policy, legislation, or practice changes on behalf of their member agencies; and support collaboration between agencies building community relationships.*

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### DE • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND) to be part of the statewide movement to bring trauma-informed care and response to all victims and survivors. It has generated partnerships such as that developed with the Engaging Men Coalition and Jewish Family Services in creating ways for teens to develop healthy relationships and keep themselves safe. It has provided the ability to participate in educating the legislators on the needs of sexual assault survivors and unintended consequences of legislation.

**CONTACTLIFELINE, INC., DELAWARE**



### AK • Grantee Perspective

With state coalition funding, we are able to travel to meet with our member programs in person. This is very difficult to do without funding as many of our programs are only accessible by plane or boat. Additionally, this funding supports the majority of our training project staff time, which allows us to spend valuable time partnering with other statewide agencies to provide broader and more in-depth trainings, as well as systems changes that are unique to our state.

**ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**



### IN • Grantee Perspective

The State Coalitions Program has allowed the Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault (ICESA) to specifically focus on developing a coordinated response to sexual assault victims. We have been able to hire a Statewide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) coordinator who is able to travel to the state meeting with county prosecutors and their staffs about launching SARTs, which bring together law enforcement, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, prosecutors, and advocates to address the immediate and long-term response to sexual assault victims.

**INDIANA COALITION TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT**

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **93** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **34** (37%) grantees reporting were domestic violence coalitions, **32** (34%) were sexual assault coalitions, and **27** (29%) were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.

Nearly all grantees use funds to develop or enhance standards of service for underserved populations, by identifying gaps in services and supporting member and community organizations in their provision of outreach to and services for victims.

- **84** (90%) grantees used funds to address underserved populations.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end domestic/sexual violence and hold offenders accountable. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **90** (97%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **124** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and administrators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with State Coalitions grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>124</b>	
Program coordinators	<b>34</b>	<b>27%</b>
Administrators	<b>31</b>	<b>25%</b>
Support staff	<b>18</b>	<b>15%</b>
Technical assistance providers	<b>10</b>	<b>8%</b>
Communications specialists	<b>9</b>	<b>7%</b>
Systems advocates	<b>8</b>	<b>6%</b>
Trainers	<b>7</b>	<b>6%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



## Training

Grantees help train states, territories, and communities to develop coordinated responses to reduce domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **84** (90%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **5,137** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **118,990** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**36%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**11%**), and law enforcement officers (**9%**).

## Technical Assistance

Grantees provide technical assistance to member programs through site visits and other consultations. Consultations may include in-person, telephone, electronic, or other types of contact with programs. The goal of technical assistance is to improve the response of professionals and organizations to victims of domestic/sexual violence, by improving organizational infrastructure; developing, revising, and implementing policies, protocols, and procedures; and providing materials on relevant issues.

- **90** (97%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of **98,659** technical assistance activities.

**Across the 2-year period, providers most frequently delivered the following forms of assistance:**

- A total of **95,546** consultations; and
- A total of **3,113** site visits.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees noted a need to **enhance collaboration and coordination between service providers** in response to domestic violence and sexual assault. This included collaboration between:

- Mainstream service providers and DV/SA organizations;
- DV/SA organizations and religious organizations;
- Criminal justice professionals and victim service providers; and
- Tribal, state, and local law enforcement and courts.



### NV • Grantee Perspective

Funding has allowed us to utilize technology to help overcome the geographical barriers in Nevada. We have created a virtual meeting network that allows us to meet in real time, face-to-face despite the many hundreds of miles that separate us. We are able to insure that no matter where you live in the state you have access to the same quality information and training as someone living in a more urban environment. We are able to meet advocates where they are, whether in person or via technology, and create a stronger network of service providers as a result.

NEVADA NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



### LA • Grantee Perspective

The State Coalitions Program funding has allowed us to provide ongoing technical assistance and training to member programs, law enforcement, and prosecutorial agencies regarding evidence-based practices for domestic violence response. Specifically, we have provided training regarding risk assessment in the context of domestic violence recidivism, and we have provided resources and technical assistance for language access within domestic violence programs.

LOUISIANA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



### DE • Grantee Perspective

There are great opportunities ahead to more effectively engage others in systems such as public health/healthcare, but the capacity and ability of coalitions and programs regarding engagement with these systems is limited by staffing and resources. In our state, it seems we are at a critical juncture where many people are interested in addressing domestic violence and want to work with the Coalition and others in the DV community. This interest is due, at least in part, to the work of Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) and our partners to engage allies in prevention (including health equity/disparities conversations) and public awareness initiatives. Our challenge is now how to capitalize on this interest to improve our systems' response to go beyond the justice system to include health care, housing, faith communities, social services - so that victims will receive effective, trauma-informed services and assistance wherever they go.

DELAWARE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



### ME • Grantee Perspective

We continue to have difficulty obtaining resources to serve the current client base. We really want to expand our work to address the unique needs of the underserved, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, Native American women, refugees/immigrants, rural populations, and homeless and street-involved victims/survivors. However, we just don't have the resources to do that well. Unfortunately, enhancing services for underserved populations requires a good deal more effort than it does for more typical or traditional clients. For instance, serving incarcerated survivors is a vital service, but requires a much higher level of relationship building, development of organizational protocols, increased capacity and systems knowledge on the part of the advocate, and more time commitment to travel to the location and to manage the additional paperwork. To do this work well, agencies simply must have increased capacity. These are the populations we must serve, and want to serve, as we expand the availability of sexual violence awareness and intervention supports, but the availability of resources presents a significant barrier to that expansion.

MAINE COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



### MO • Grantee Perspective

There is an array of issues related to sexual assault that Missouri needs to address: rape kit backlogs, law enforcement training, training standards for sexual assault investigations, increasing the numbers of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners, and increasing access to victim services. Service providers report a lack of staff to meet the increasing requests they receive for sexual assault supportive services. Currently there is minimal state and federal funding for providing services to survivors of sexual assault. Without sufficient victim service funding, sexual assault survivors often are not able to receive the advocacy, counseling, and assistance they need.

MISSOURI COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Grantees frequently reported the need to **provide culturally informed and linguistically appropriate domestic violence and sexual assault services and outreach to underserved populations** within their respective states, including:

- Immigrant victims;
- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- Victims with disabilities, including Deaf or hard of hearing populations;
- Male victims;
- LGBTQ populations;
- Homeless victims;
- Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated victims;
- Seniors; and
- Victims in remote rural areas.

Grantees also felt that **more training was needed on trauma-informed response and evidence-based practices among:**

- Law enforcement and first responders;
- Prosecutors;
- Judges and court personnel; and
- Victim service providers.

A majority of grantees reported **difficulty in maintaining current services given budget cuts and financial constraints**, as well as **difficulty meeting new state and federal mandates without concurrent increases in funding**. These challenges had **significant impacts on agencies' ability to recruit and retain qualified staff**.

Many grantees underscored difficulties in **providing victim services**, such as:

- Mental health and substance abuse services;
- Legal assistance;
- Housing;
- Employment;
- Affordable child care;
- Transportation; and
- Education and tuition assistance.

Grantees also mentioned the need for **enhanced accountability for offenders**, including:

- Improved standards for batterer intervention programs (BIP); and
- Increased prosecution of sex offenders, especially in non-stranger sexual assault cases.

Grantees pointed to the need to **devote more resources to serving victims of sexual assault**, including:

- Developing sexual assault response teams (SARTs) within their states;
- Improving availability of SANE exams;
- Improving law enforcement and criminal justice response to sexual assault; and
- Addressing sexual assault on college campuses.



#### MD • Grantee Perspective

At the risk of sounding like a broken record: high quality services, access to justice, and sexual assault prevention are under-resourced just at the time when awareness is increasing. Society has made tremendous strides responding to sexual violence. Increased awareness in the media, in the military, on college campuses, and in our communities generally has helped to send the message to survivors that they are not alone. The brave and moving letter from the survivor in the Stanford rape case has inspired policymakers and activists. Identification and awareness of different types of sexual violence, such as reproductive coercion, human sex trafficking, and child sexual abuse, has increased. These policies to increase identification and response inevitably include referrals to rape crisis centers so survivors can receive high quality and expert advocacy, information, and services. Survivors are well-served by these referrals. However, programs have not received increased support to meet the increased demand. Programs are stretched ever thinner as they try to do more and more with less and less. While there are still improvements to be made, the most significant area of remaining need is financial.

**MARYLAND COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT**

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# Technical Assistance Program

The Technical Assistance Program (TA Program) provides VAWA grantees with training, expertise, and problem-solving strategies to address the diverse needs of victims of domestic/sexual violence. Technical assistance (TA) providers are national, tribal, or statewide agencies; or governmental, academic, or other nonprofit organizations with the capacity to provide nationwide training and technical assistance. This may include:

- Educational opportunities;
- Conferences, seminars, and roundtables;
- Peer-to-peer, individualized consultations;
- Policy development; and
- Site visits.

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE TA PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE A WIDE range of direct technical assistance to VAWA grantees and subgrantees, so that they can successfully implement grant-funded projects. In addition, the TA Program focuses on building the capacity of criminal justice and victim services organizations to respond effectively to domestic/sexual violence. Providers seek to support grantees in fostering partnerships among organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address these forms of violence, such as faith- and community-based organizations.**

## 285 Projects

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, the TA Program funded 285 projects.

## 97,261 TA Activities

Grantees provided a total of 51,020 consultations, and responded to 37,730 requests for information.

## 253,460 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 253,460 people.

The Technical Assistance (TA) Program provides grantees with training, expertise, and problem-solving strategies so they can better address domestic/sexual violence. TA projects may offer in-person or online educational opportunities, peer-to-peer consultations, site visits, and more, so that grantees can work with experts and one another.

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### D.C. • Grantee Perspective

AEquitas has committed to working with jurisdictions to review and end practices that may be harmful to the safety of victims. Requests for technical assistance are addressed 24/7 by an AEquitas attorney who communicates directly with the requester to elicit detail about the specific need. In this way, AEquitas can best determine an appropriate solution, taking into account such considerations as whether and how the immediate issue and possible solutions may impact, or may be impacted by, other issues or future events. By taking this individualized approach to support, AEquitas is able to provide the most relevant and beneficial response to the requester, a response that is data-driven, nuanced, and tailored to the needs of the particular jurisdiction and discipline at issue.

**AEQUITAS, WASHINGTON, D.C.**



### MT • Grantee Perspective

Participants walk through an action planning process at the end of our training. Many participants articulate plans to review policies that compromise safety, provide more intentional time for staff development and supervision, and review overall strategies for providing a more humanistic and engaged model of visitation that supports safety and change for families.

**INSPIRE ACTION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, MONTANA**



### IA • Grantee Perspective

Coalitions continue to appreciate the support they receive from the Resource Sharing Project (RSP). In this reporting period, they told us, “We wouldn’t be where we are without the help and expertise of RSP!!” and “No one else does such good and relevant work.” We saw some evidence of RSP publications’ value to coalitions when we saw staff posting RSP resources in response to listserv questions and referring their peers to RSP staff for help. Workshop participants also appreciated the approach and content knowledge of RSP staff, with one participant saying, “I loved the modeling of allyship in this facilitation, the way you highlighted things that didn’t get a lot of attention in mainstream media.”

**IOWA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT**

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **285** individual projects, located in **93** provider agencies for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period. Providers may deliver technical assistance in discrete issue areas related to a specific knowledge gap or promising practice, or may manage multiple projects spanning a variety of topics.

- TA projects funded an average of **298** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- **198** (69%) individual TA projects used funds to specifically address underserved populations.

## Training

TA providers offer training events to other VAWA grantees to enhance services for victims of domestic/sexual violence, to improve offender accountability, and to promote coordinated community responses to reduce violence. **This training helps grantees successfully implement projects supported by VAWA grant funds.**

- **221** (78%) TA projects used funds for training.
- TA providers convened a total of **4,037** training events.
- TA providers trained a total of **253,460** people.
- Most often these trainings reached dual sexual assault and domestic violence program staff (**11%**), domestic violence program staff (**10%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**10%**), and law enforcement officers (**9%**).

## Technical Assistance

TA providers deliver technical assistance through site visits, consultations, information request responses, and referrals. Assistance may include guidance on developing, revising, and implementing policies, protocols, and procedures; building a coordinated community response and community support; and overcoming barriers to effective service delivery.

- **223** (78%) individual TA projects used funds for technical assistance.
- TA providers delivered a total of **97,261** technical assistance activities.

**Across the 2-year period, TA providers delivered the following forms of assistance:**

- A total of **51,020** consultations;
- A total of **37,730** information request responses;
- A total of **7,277** referrals; and
- A total of **1,234** site visits.

## Products

To provide standardized best practices to professionals and organizations, TA providers develop, revise, and distribute a variety of products about domestic/sexual violence, including training curricula, reports, tool kits, and other materials.

- **238** (84%) individual TA projects used funds for products.
- TA providers developed or revised a total of **5,696** products.

## Remaining Areas of Need

The needs expressed by technical assistance providers were as **diverse as the organizations they serve**. However, across the array of sexual assault and domestic violence services, technical assistance providers most frequently reported the need to **help grantees provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services and resources to diverse groups of victims**, including:

- Immigrant victims, including undocumented immigrants;
- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- Victims with disabilities, including Deaf or hard of hearing populations;
- Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated victims;
- LGBTQ populations;
- American Indians/Alaska Natives;
- Racial minorities;
- Homeless youth; and
- Seniors.

According to TA providers, grantees have **faced challenges in meeting the mandates for inclusion and cultural responsiveness as outlined in VAWA 2013**.

The need to provide **linguistically appropriate, culturally informed** services was particularly pronounced for **immigrant victims and victims with limited English proficiency (LEP)**. According to TA providers, **needs of immigrant and LEP victims included**:

- Training for law enforcement on cultural sensitivity and providing adequate translation and interpretation services;
- Training for service providers, court personnel, and attorneys on immigration proceedings, including the U visa application process;
- Improved translation and interpretation services; and
- More bilingual advocates and service providers.



### MN • Grantee Perspective

There is a gap between organizational or mainstream model perspective and how communities experience violence on the ground and in their individual homes. More light should be shed on culturally competent and trauma-informed approaches to domestic violence by viewing the victim/survivor as the expert of their experience and what might work for them that may not work for another victim/survivor. This can be done through community and cultural nuances that are led by members of the community, such as community resource mapping listening sessions, etc. Additionally, organizations should be crediting community work through partnership and collaboration by engaging community directly to be a part of leadership within these organizations that will support ground level empowerment of victims/survivors. When members of the organizations are a part of the community as opposed to servicing the community, the victim/survivor has an increased ability to relate to a systemic based service through the individuals that have shared socio-cultural experiences.

**INSTITUTE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, MINNESOTA**



### IL • Grantee Perspective

The new requirements and expanded areas of VAWA 2013, including the changes to the STOP Implementation Planning Process and PREA, have seen progress since the adaptation but continue to be an area of need. STOP Administrators continue to need ongoing TA related to the documentation of collaboration and the nuts and bolts of “meaningfully incorporating” the voices of those who are underserved into the STOP Planning processes, especially Tribes. Inclusion of culturally specific organizations at the planning table as well as within funding streams also continues to be a challenge, as state/territory budgets for the victim services are shrinking. Supporting culturally specific service providers to manage large state/federal grants also is an area of need. Identifying the intersectionality of the work in which Administrators provide funding for culturally specific service providers will help prioritize the issues and needs most important to the residents within their jurisdictions.

**ALLIANCE OF LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, ILLINOIS**



### D.C. • Grantee Perspective

During this grant reporting period we have received various technical assistance requests for more guidance and information regarding eligibility and options for immigrant survivors who are not citizens accessing transitional or emergency housing. Confusion in the field exists for grantees that provide services at shelters or other emergency housing programs. Specifically, providers are unaware a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking and other survivors who are homeless can access the shelter or emergency housing when the survivor is undocumented, when they are in the process of waiting for immigration application to be approved, when they are in mixed status families, and when they become Lawful Permanent Residents. Often, undocumented survivors lack the particular form of identification, work authorization, and/or Social Security Number the shelter requests. Transitional housing programs request specific documents that are not legally required and then uses the fact that an immigrant victim does not have that documentation to turn immigrant victims away. Grantees need further education to understand that immigration status should not be a factor in admission to transitional housing and learn how to advocate for admission to transitional housing programs so that they don't inadvertently turn away immigrant survivors.

**NATIONAL IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**



### MN • Grantee Perspective

One of the most significant areas of remaining need with regard to increasing victim/survivor safety and offender accountability is ensuring that OVV grantees have the organizational capacity to manage and operate/sustain their organizations. Specifically, for grantees under the OVV CSSP, Underserved, Rural, and Tribal programs, organizational sustainability can be a challenge because of limited resources, familiarity with federal grant management, and cultural realities of the survivors they support that do not always fit the traditional service models. In the development of our training curriculum, partners have placed attention on organizational resource building, understanding how to work with federal funders, and how to incorporate and uplift culture in their organizational practices to strengthen their work. By strengthening these grantees' organizational capacity, we hope that they will be better able to increase victim/survivor safety and offender accountability.

**CASA DE ESPERANZA, MINNESOTA**

TA providers discussed the need to **assist service providers, especially non-profit organizations, with organizational management** in order to ensure their long-term sustainability. These needs included:

- Providing adequate staff training and development opportunities;
- Increasing organizational capacity through technical assistance;
- Providing alternative modes of training, including more online and remote training opportunities; and
- Assisting organizations with day-to-day administrative tasks, including grant management and data tracking.

In the criminal justice arena, TA providers detailed a number of **training and TA needs for law enforcement**, including:

- Protocol for strangulation cases;
- Trauma-informed practices;
- The U visa certification process;
- Working with victims with limited English proficiency;
- Best practices in sexual assault response and investigation; and
- Identification of the primary aggressor.

Grantees also reported the need to **provide training and TA to prosecutors and judges** in order to **enhance offender accountability** and **achieve justice for victims**. Training needs included:

- Strategies for prosecuting non-stranger sexual assault cases;
- Training in consumer law to help victims with credit problems or significant debt;
- TA and training for attorneys working in complex family law cases;
- TA and training for judges and attorneys in cases involving interstate custody;
- Training on immigration law and the U visa process; and
- Basic training in trauma-informed practices.

Grantees also underscored the need to assist service providers in their efforts to **educate youth and community members** about **healthy relationships and violence prevention**.

Finally, TA providers emphasized the need to **support grantees in their efforts to collaborate with other service providers** in order to provide holistic services for victims.



# Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Transitional Housing Program) funds programs that provide transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services to victims, their children, and other dependents.

**THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE holistic, victim-centered transitional housing services that move individuals to permanent housing.**

## 284 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 284 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Transitional Housing Program.

## 2,726 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 2,726 victims, 3,770 children, and 76 other dependents during each 6-month reporting period.

## 1,260,316 Bed Nights

Grantees provided a total of 1,260,316 bed nights to victims, their children, and other dependents.<sup>1</sup>

Grantees provide housing units, rental vouchers, and victim-centered services such as case management, housing advocacy, counseling, job training, child care, transportation, and other assistance. It is crucial that these programs provide a wide range of flexible and optional services that reflect the differences and individual needs of victims, and allow them to choose the best course of action for their specific circumstances. Trained staff work with victims to help them determine and reach their goals for permanent housing.

*Research shows that when victims work to become and remain free from violence, they may experience negative consequences such as limited access to financial resources, potentially escalating violence, and residential instability (Thomas et al., 2015).*

<sup>1</sup> This number does not include nights spent in housing supported through a voucher or other rental assistance.



#### GA • Grantee Perspective

With this funding, we have been able to encourage and support women in achieving the goals they have identified for themselves, heal from abuse, and assist them in becoming self-sufficient. Without this type of program, many battered women feel they cannot afford to make ends meet on their own and often return to their abuser due to economic factors. This program helps them address those financial barriers to eliminate that factor.

GEORGIA MOUNTAIN WOMEN'S CENTER, INC.



#### VA • Grantee Perspective

Survivors report this funding has given them hope for a brighter future. One client we are working with has struggled with substance abuse resulting from prescription pain medications prescribed for her foot, a severe physical disability, living in a home where domestic violence has taken place, and losing her children to foster care. She reports, after working with us for over one year beginning in the transition house, she has left the abusive home, has had surgery to repair her disfigured foot and is able to walk, has maintained her apartment, gained employment, is working on her sobriety, and gained back full custody of her children who are very happy to be back with their mom and thriving.

RAPPAHANNOCK GOODWILL INDUSTRIES, VIRGINIA



#### CA • Grantee Perspective

These funds allow us to provide security deposit and rental assistance for 6-24 months, as well as staffing to assist victims identify their housing needs, search for appropriate housing, and move into a new home of their own where survivors can permanently remain, long after the Transitional Housing funds are completed. This was not possible prior to OWW funds.

INTERVAL HOUSE, CALIFORNIA

The Transitional Housing Program enhances the safety and security of victims, their children, and other dependents by supporting an array of services that are critical to the provision of temporary housing and the attainment of permanent housing. Purpose areas include:

- Provide transitional housing, including funding for the operating expenses of newly developed or existing transitional housing;
- Provide short-term housing assistance, including rental or utilities payments assistance, and assistance with related expenses such as security deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to transitional housing; and
- Provide support services designed to help victims fleeing violence locate and secure permanent housing and integrate into a community by providing them with services, such as transportation, counseling, child care services, case management, and other assistance.

VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose areas to this program:

- Expand support services to help victims secure employment, via employment counseling, occupational training, job retention counseling, and/or counseling concerning reentry into the workforce.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under the added purpose area could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **284** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- **16** (6%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
  - Provide support services, including counseling, transportation, and employment services.

## Provision of Housing

The ability to provide housing is a vital part of supporting victims in leaving their abusers by allowing them to live safely in the community. Grantees note that without housing, a victim must often choose between becoming homeless or remaining with their abuser.

- **239** (84%) grantees used funds to directly support housing units.

Grantees use a variety of strategies to provide housing to victims, their children, and other dependents. Some programs use funds to support either program-owned or -rented units, whereas other programs use rental assistance vouchers to provide housing to victims.

**During each 6-month reporting period, on average, grantees provided victims, children, and other dependents:**

- **369** program-owned housing units;
- **217** program-rented housing units; and
- **977** vouchers/rent subsidies.

## Housing Assistance

In addition to funding housing units, grantees used funds to support other expenses related to housing, such as relocation expenses and utilities.



### IA • Grantee Perspective

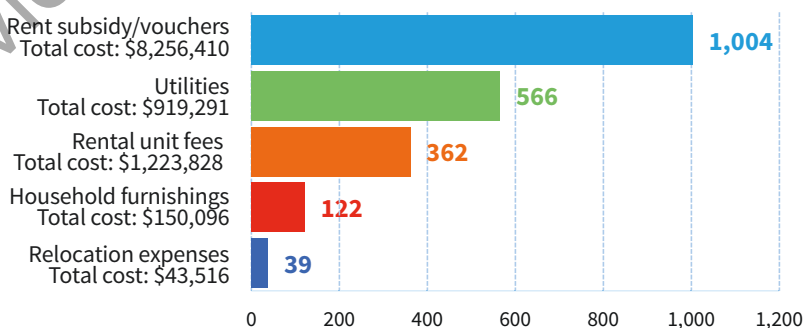
We are able to provide long-term housing and supportive services to address all aspects and varying levels of the barriers victims may be facing. This program has allowed us to expand our relationship with property managers. We have created great working relationships with several property management companies that provide us with multiple units in the communities they serve. We are able to build off of those relationships created when working on other housing cases and attempting to get other survivors into permanent housing. Since our program holds the master lease, the participant is never required to share information directly with the landlord until they decide they are ready to begin contributing to their housing costs. This creates an opportunity for participants to develop rapport with the landlord without fear that they are being judged by the information on a rental application. This clean slate has allowed our participants to focus on developing the skills that will make them good tenants in the future.

**ASSAULT CARE CENTER EXTENDING SHELTER AND SUPPORT, IOWA**

*In a recent study of homelessness, families assigned permanent housing subsidies were half as likely to report intimate partner violence at a 20-month outcome measurement than families who had not been offered any priority access to homeless or housing assistance (Gubits et al., 2016).*

**Figure 1**

Average number of victims provided with housing assistance by Transitional Housing Program grantees, July 2015–June 2017



## Increasing Accessibility of Housing and Services

Some programs are able to offer units that are accessible to people with disabilities and/or enhance their programs' accessibility by providing interpretation services, language lines, translation of documents, and/or telecommunication devices for Deaf or hard of hearing victims.

- An average of **590** housing units were accessible to people with disabilities (for example, people who are blind or vision-impaired, people with physical disabilities, and people with diagnosed mental illness, if their activities are so limited) during each 6-month period.



### CA • Grantee Perspective

The Program has allowed us to hire a Housing Supervisor who specializes in housing location and advocacy. This resource is particularly valuable in Los Angeles, an area of the country that is infamous for its lack of affordable housing. The funds have allowed us to provide the supportive staffing and financial resources necessary to help vulnerable victims navigate this difficult terrain with the support they need to overcome trauma and attain self-sufficiency. It also allowed us to partner with organizations and landlords, which has helped our program to meet the housing needs of our clients.

**1736 FAMILY CRISIS CENTER, CALIFORNIA**

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide direct services to victims, children, and other dependents, as well as program administration. **Being able to hire staff is critical for the overall function and success of programs.**

- **278** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **203** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support case managers and program coordinators.



### MO • Grantee Perspective

The OWW grant supports the program's Employment Advocate, which also is in line with the VAWA 2013 Reauthorization. This position focuses on job preparation, placement and retention. The Employment Advocate meets with survivors individually and through group facilitation. The curriculum utilized is the workshop series created by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and WOW (Wider Opportunities for Women): Career Empowerment Curriculum. This position develops meaningful partnerships with local employers to serve as a bridge between survivors and jobs. The Employment Advocate targets specific industries that provide a wide range of positions. Employers have conducted job fairs at the organization and hired several survivors from Rose Brooks. Other employers have assisted with creating resumes and/or mock interviews.

**ROSE BROOKS CENTER, MISSOURI**

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>203</b>	
Case managers	<b>75</b>	<b>37%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>36</b>	<b>18%</b>
Housing advocates	<b>21</b>	<b>10%</b>
Victim advocates	<b>17</b>	<b>8%</b>
Transitional services advocates	<b>15</b>	<b>7%</b>
Administrators	<b>14</b>	<b>7%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Services for Victims, Children, and Other Dependents

Grantees provide an array of support services to victims, their children, and other dependents to locate, secure, and maintain permanent housing and economic stability. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **272** (96%) grantees used funds for services provided to victims, their children, and other dependents.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **2,726** victims, **3,770** children, and **76** other dependents during each 6-month period.
- **72%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

## Support Services for Victims

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:**

- Case management services to **2,389** victims;
- Housing advocacy services to **1,673** victims;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **1,501** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **1,280** victims;
- Financial counseling services to **1,268** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **1,254** victims;
- Victim advocacy services (e.g. assistance obtaining healthcare or social services) to **1,200** victims;
- Employment counseling services to **926** victims; and
- Transportation services to **913** victims.

## Support Services for Children and Other Dependents

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:**

- Case management services to **1,773** children and other dependents;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **1,414** children and other dependents;
- Advocacy services (e.g. assistance obtaining healthcare or social services) to **871** children and other dependents;
- Children's activities to **858** children;
- Child care services to **601** children;
- Crisis intervention services to **596** children and other dependents; and
- Transportation services to **588** children and other dependents.



### CA • Grantee Perspective

Over the first 9 months of this grant Second Step has accomplished the following: Provided a cumulative total of 16,939 bednights of transitional housing to 84 women, children, and dependents and provided a wide range of supportive services, including assistance in securing permanent housing, to all 28 families enrolled in the program over the entire grant term.

**CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE, CALIFORNIA**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

In a two year period, the Transitional Housing Program grant has allowed us to assist 35 families/individuals with securing housing and/or other services. Those 35 households have a combined total of 58 children living within them. Those who did not secure housing benefited from advocacy, case management, transportation, accompaniments, counseling, goal planning, and emotional support. They are now aware of the available resources and may receive housing assistance in the future.

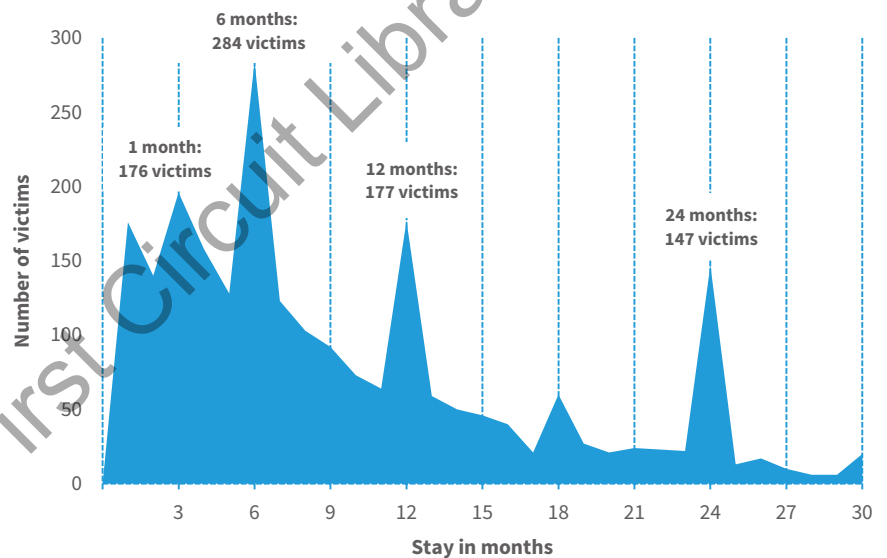
**OSWEGO COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES, INC., NEW YORK**

**Table 2** Victims, children, and other dependents sheltered with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Transitional housing	Number of people (6-month average)	Number of bed nights (2-year total)
Victims	1,054	509,905
Children	1,525	738,515
Other dependents	26	11,896
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,604</b>	<b>1,260,316</b>

**NOTE:** These numbers do not include victims, children, or other dependents receiving housing through a voucher or other rental assistance.

**Figure 2** Victims and their families' length of stay in transitional housing in months, June 2015–July 2017



## Victims, Children, and Other Dependents Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence.

**Table 3** Victims seeking services with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average					
	Victims		Children		Other dependents	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>3,781</b>		<b>5,094</b>		<b>85</b>	
Victims served	2,474	65%	3,490	69%	73	86%
Victims partially served	252	7%	280	6%	3	3%
Victims not served	1,055	28%	1,324	26%	9	11%

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims, children, and other dependents who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant. "Not served" represents victims, children, and other dependents who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant.



### IA • Grantee Perspective

With this program we are able to better serve entire households, including secondary victims and other dependents. Secondary victims and other dependents to primary victims do not always qualify for our other housing services due to lack of space, funding, and staff capacity. One participant identified that having her mother live in the home with her would provide significant support to her in terms of assistance with raising her small children and overcoming her struggles with substance abuse.

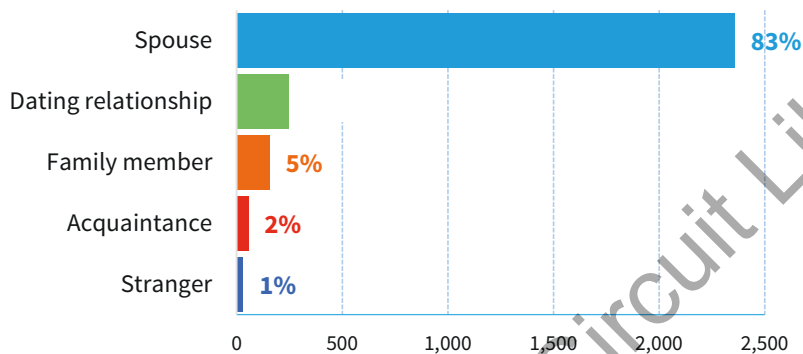
**ASSAULT CARE CENTER EXTENDING SHELTER AND SUPPORT, IOWA**

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (83%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (9%) or by another **family or household member** (5%).

**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender (6-month average)



## Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 reporting period, grantees reported that an average of **853** victims, **1,037** children, and **4** other dependents were not served or were only partially served **solely due to a lack of available housing**.

Grantees most frequently noted the following additional barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Program rules not acceptable to party(ies);
- Services were not appropriate for party(ies);
- Party(ies) did not meet eligibility or statutory requirements; or
- Safety/security risk.



### MS • Grantee Perspective

During this funding period, the Transitional Housing Program successfully completed services with a few clients. One of the clients was a victim of domestic violence and sexual assault and had endured years of punching, kicking, and rape by her husband. The client and her family were accepted into the Transitional Housing Program. The client has completed safety planning, graduated with a degree in diesel mechanics, secured employment, filed for divorce, obtained housing, and met all therapeutic goals. The Center will continue to follow up with the victim to ensure she has a happy and successful life.

THE CENTER FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION,  
MISSISSIPPI



### ID • Grantee Perspective

We helped 36 survivors maintain housing stability for themselves and their 54 children and 6 dependents collectively, 19 of whom are people with disabilities. Funds helped multiple survivors move out of the area where the abusive person lived, and we were able to help them with full application, deposit and rent so they could re-establish jobs, schools, and needed supplies, in safe and stable housing.

**IDAHO COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

## Demographics of Victims, Children, and Other Dependents Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **2,726** victims, **3,770** children, and **76** other dependents during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (43%), **female** (99%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (85%).

**Table 4**

Demographic characteristics of victims, children, and other dependents served with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Characteristic	6-month average					
	Victims		Children		Other dependents	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Race</b>						
American Indian or Alaska Native	159	6%	222	6%	3	4%
Asian	111	4%	109	3%	7	9%
Black or African American	787	30%	1,351	37%	16	22%
Hispanic or Latino	520	20%	905	25%	24	32%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	32	1%	49	1%	2	3%
White	1,149	43%	1,273	35%	25	34%
Unknown (missing)	67		124		2	
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	2,683	99%	1,887	50%	50	66%
Male	35	1%	1,859	50%	26	34%
Total	2,718		3,746		76	
Unknown (missing)	67		124		2	
<b>Age</b>						
0–6	-	-	1,824	49%	-	-
7–12	-	-	1,274	34%	-	-
13–17	4	0%	645	17%	-	-
18–24	349	13%	-	-	65	89%
25–59	2,286	85%	-	-	6	8%
60+	56	2%	-	-	3	3%
Total	2,695		3,743		74	
Unknown (missing)	31		27		3	
<b>Other</b>						
People with disabilities	489	18%	213	6%	8	11%
People with limited English proficiency	403	15%	247	7%	7	10%
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	385	14%	171	5%	8	10%
People who live in rural areas	630	23%	833	22%	16	21%



## Transitional Housing and Destination Upon Exit

Grant funds can be used to house victims for up to 24 months.<sup>ii</sup> Grantees reported that victims most often moved to permanent housing of their choosing, after their stay in grant-funded housing.

**Table 5** | Victims' housing destination upon exit, July 2015–June 2017

Destination upon exit	2-year total
Permanent housing of choice (Section 8, return to home, rent or purchase housing)	1,780
Temporary housing with family or friend	188
Transitional housing (not grant-funded program)	69
Domestic violence emergency shelter	36
Healthcare facility/substance abuse treatment program	17
Incarceration/jail	15
Homeless emergency shelter	12
Hotel/motel	3
Unknown	125

## Victims' Perception of Risk of Violence Upon Exit

Victims most often reported perceiving a lower risk of violence (77%) after their stay in Transitional Housing grant-funded housing units.

**Table 6** | Victims' perception of risk of future violence upon exit, July 2015–June 2017

Perception of risk of future violence	2-year total	
Lower risk of violence	1,738	77%
Equal risk of violence	129	6%
Does not know	86	4%
Greater risk of violence	38	2%
Unknown	274	

## Follow-up Support Services

If grantees use funds for housing units and support services, they are required to provide a minimum of 3 months follow-up services to victims after their stay in transitional housing units. These follow-up services are intended to continue to connect victims and their families with assistance from the program.

- **241** (85%) grantees used funds for follow-up services.

<sup>ii</sup> By statute, a grantee may waive the 24-month restriction for no more than 6 months for victims who have made a good-faith effort to acquire permanent housing but have been unable to do so.



### RI • Grantee Perspective

The Transitional Housing Program enables us to provide intensive support to survivors of violence by providing them with opportunities and resources to achieve greater self-sufficiency through supportive services while having safe temporary housing. This service-enriched program supports self-efficacy by emphasizing a service model that promotes safety, employment and education, and housing stability. Additionally, social supports are provided that inspire families to overcome challenges through mental, emotional, and personal development, supporting standards of healthy living, encouraging goal setting, and teaching basic life skills such as budgeting, time management, problem solving, stress management, and more.

**WOMEN'S CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND**



### MA • Grantee Perspective

Through the Transitional Housing Program, ATASK has enabled clients to secure housing leases under their names. This proved to be critical in supporting 2 families this reporting period. After OWW housing assistance was no longer available to the clients, they were able to stay in their own units, avoiding the need to move. Without this program, the landlords would never have allowed the clients to rent from them, since they did not have good credit scores, enough income, or good housing histories.

**ASIAN TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MASSACHUSETTS**



### AZ • Grantee Perspective

Attaining affordable (permanent) and safe housing for women and their children remains a major need faced by victims/survivors. The greater metro Phoenix area is reflective of similar housing markets. Once severely affected by the housing bubble crash, a period of increasing demand for rental properties occurred. Now with realty prices increasing, rents are rising in tandem. Survivors are not only priced out of more desirable neighborhoods (safer, better schools, readily available services, etc.) but the screening process for renting in some areas remains strict and highly exclusionary. Anyone presenting with a negative rental history, poor credit, and/or criminal history will find renting especially difficult. Many properties require “non-refundable application fees” which place an additional burden on women and families seeking to transition to safe and affordable housing. It remains an unfortunate truth that many of the properties that are the easiest to rent are not the most ideal in terms of safety, sobriety, or general location.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY AND TRAINING NETWORK,  
ARIZONA



### AL • Grantee Perspective

Economic self-sufficiency continues to be a huge need in achieving and sustaining housing, safety, and independence from abuse. Many times survivors reopen the door to an abuser because of the financial security that exists in that relationship. While we offer financial empowerment, budgeting assistance, and other supportive types of job readiness skills, participants still encounter difficulties when trying to obtain employment due to deficiencies in education or lack of job skills. Participants experience challenges with negative credit reports, paying past debts, transportation, and childcare. Because of the increased difficulties, we realize that we must move to a more focused and organized effort in our approach to job readiness and support. While some survivors come to the program with work experience, most do not. Others come with some skills, but because of the isolation and control they have experienced, they do not have confidence in their abilities

SAFEHOUSE OF SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Case management services to **472** victims and **293** children and other dependents;
- Housing advocacy services to **225** victims and **49** children and other dependents;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **209** victims and **193** children and other dependents;
- Support group/counseling services to **186** victims and **66** children and other dependents;
- Victim advocacy services to **182** victims and **131** children and other dependents;
- Crisis intervention services to **155** victims and **79** children and other dependents; and
- Financial counseling services to **152** victims and **13** children and other dependents.

### Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited a **lack of safe and affordable long-term housing** as the biggest obstacle confronting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In addition to **high prices and low availability of rental units**, victims encountered **additional challenges to securing housing**, including:

- Long waitlists for Section 8 and public housing;
- No credit or poor credit history;
- Inability to meet the income requirements of landlords and property managers;
- A history of evictions;
- The presence of a criminal background; and
- Outstanding debt.

These challenges sometimes pushed victims into housing that was **unsafe, outside their target area, or poorly maintained**.

Grantees also cited difficulty in **helping clients secure employment that provided a living wage**. Challenges included:

- High unemployment rates in service areas;
- Lack of training and/or education;
- Little or no employment history;
- An inability to secure child care, especially for nighttime shifts; and
- Inadequate access to reliable transportation.

The **inability to earn a living wage and achieve financial self-sufficiency** put victims at a **much greater risk of returning to their abusers**.

Finding employment and housing was particularly difficult for **underserved populations**, especially:

- Immigrant victims especially those with in the process of obtaining legal status;
- Victims with limited English proficiency;
- LGBTQ populations;
- Elderly victims; and
- Victims with disabilities.

Grantees emphasized the need to **provide additional services to victims to promote self-sufficiency**, including:

- Affordable and pro bono civil legal services;
- Mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling;
- Funds for moving expenses, utilities, and security deposits;
- Financial education; and
- Job training, employment counseling, and education.



#### TX • Grantee Perspective



#### TX • Grantee Perspective

Immigration resolution, particularly pertaining to VAWA, U-Visa, and T-Visa applications, and the challenges it poses to attaining self-determination and sustainability remains the highest barrier to clients to date. Due to the amount of time the immigration process is currently taking (going on 3 years of backlog at last count) the 24-month maximum is not enough to maintain and improve client stability. Currently clients who are still in the metropolitan area where their trafficker/batterer/abuser resides cannot leave due to travel restrictions imposed upon those who do not have documentation, including state identification or driver's licenses. In addition, because clients are prohibited from moving across state lines, or are limited to the area due to location of courts and government agencies that are pertinent to their case (as well as legal services that are also certified by the state bar), safety becomes a pressing issue, especially when the batterer has no such restrictions due to his/her being a citizen or permanent resident of the US. Immigration's timeline and backlog also make finding fair and sustainable work next to impossible.

HOUSTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER, TEXAS

We are finding that the individuals we are serving in transitional housing are having greater and greater mental health and substance abuse issues and that these issues are experienced by a majority, if not all of our residents, instead of just a few. Access to mental health and substance abuse services in rural areas is critical and yet lacking. Fewer providers means increased waiting lists and means that individuals do not necessarily have the luxury of selecting a provider with whom they are most comfortable as options are limited. Access to substance abuse treatment, particularly drug replacement therapies, is also a major issue. Physicians providing suboxone are limited in the numbers of patients they can serve and one resident must travel over two hours to access her services. The closest methadone clinics are in Bangor which has three such clinics but serves the northern half of the state. With a cap of 300, one clinic recently stated they have a 173 patient wait list while they wait for approval to expand the cap they can serve to 500. Bangor is 45 to 90 minutes away from our houses. While transportation to appointments may be covered by MaineCare, the distance and time involved in accessing what can be daily treatment is a barrier and prevents individuals from taking other necessary steps in their lives such as finding or maintaining employment

PENQUIS, MAINE

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions

The Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions (Tribal Coalitions Program) builds the capacity of nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal coalitions, to end domestic/sexual violence in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

**COALITIONS CONSIST PRIMARILY OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS** (e.g. sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, tribal victim services agencies, and other victim services agencies) but may also include individual members. The Tribal Coalitions Program enhances the safety of victims by supporting projects uniquely designed to address domestic/sexual violence amongst American Indian and Alaska Native women.

## 23 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 23 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Coalitions Program.

## 11,697 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 11,697 people.

## 4,847 Technical Assistance Activities

Grantees provided 4,230 consultations and 617 site visits.

Tribal Coalition grantees play a number of roles in responding to domestic/sexual violence: they serve as governing or organizing bodies for local agencies; advocate for policy, legislation, or practice changes; and support collaboration between agencies to improve access to critical services for American Indian and Alaska Native women.

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Montana Native Women's Coalition funding is critical to all tribal programs to improve the services, safety, and response to native women and girls in Montana's Indian Country. This funding provides a statewide communication center for tribal programs to communicate with each other, gain resources, and assist in their tribal communities. This improves relationships, coordination of services, and work with tribal governments to understand the necessary program efforts allowed under VAWA 2013.

**MONTANA NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

With the grant funding, Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC) is able to bring trainings to each community to meet their needs in responding to the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and trafficking. WWC provides opportunities for survivors from all the tribal communities to attend a weekend healing retreat. This funding has changed the landscape of the response that Native women can expect to receive in tribal communities throughout Maine.

**WABANAKI WOMEN'S COALITION**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Coalitions funds allow us to maintain a staff of five, which helps us provide awareness materials and training to service providers to help restore the harmony within our Indigenous communities.

**SEVEN DANCERS COALITION**

## Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence in AI/AN communities;
- Enhance the response at the tribal, federal, and state levels; and
- Identify and provide technical assistance (TA) to coalition members and tribal communities to improve access to critical services.

## VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose areas to the program:

- Assist Indian tribes and tribal leadership in developing and promoting state, local, and tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to these forms of violence.

This purpose area was implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address it. If an activity falling under the added purpose area could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **23** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- The majority of grantees (**91%**) were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
  - Increase awareness of domestic/dating violence and sexual assault against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end domestic/sexual violence in AI/AN communities and hold offenders accountable. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **22** (96%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **50** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support administrators and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Tribal Coalitions grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>50</b>	
Administrators	<b>14</b>	<b>28%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>12</b>	<b>24%</b>
Support staff	<b>9</b>	<b>18%</b>
Trainers/educators	<b>6</b>	<b>12%</b>
Communications specialists	<b>3</b>	<b>6%</b>

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Training

Grantees train professionals to improve their response to AI/AN victims of domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **21** (91%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **426** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **11,697** people.
- Most often these trainings reached domestic violence program staff (**26%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**9%**), tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**8%**), and tribal community groups (**7%**).

## Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide information and outreach to communities to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. Outreach activities can include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, bake sales, and parades. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**<sup>i</sup>

- **22** (96%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees convened a total of **608** education events.
- Grantees educated a total of **24,609** people.
- Most often this education reached community members (**47%**), students (**28%**), victims (**5%**), community groups (**5%**), and tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**5%**).

<sup>i</sup> Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables an individual to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The coalition did not exist prior to OVV funding and would not continue to do the crucial work we are engaged in if the funding stopped. The Restoring Ancestral Winds (RAW) staff is so engaged in the work we do that during this period, RAW staff spent 152 days on the road meeting our partners, attending meetings, delivering training and technical assistance, and providing information about our organization and how we can be a free and responsive resource for our partners, stakeholders, and the community.

RESTORING ANCESTRAL WINDS, INC.



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Without funding to support our work, our communities both off and on the reservation would have to depend on dominant culture programs to provide adequate services that are culturally relevant and appropriate for survivors. Dominant culture programs work from a western lens of perception that is inclusive of their values. These values are contrary and in competition with our own beliefs and standards. These values impact the quality of services that our women and children receive when accessing support and help from mainstream domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Relationships with Native women keep us informed on the violence being perpetrated against Native women and the systems response they are receiving when ending the violence. It also helps us to identify gaps in services and to model what is working throughout tribal communities, when it comes to crime victim services. When we find gaps, this funding allows us to develop and implement training, curriculum, and resources to help increase leadership and capacity building amongst tribal domestic violence and sexual assault programs, both on and off the reservation.

MENDING THE SACRED HOOP



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The funding allows our organization to provide training, technical assistance and support to advocates, law enforcement, members of the judiciary, child welfare professionals, and others who may encounter victims and families experiencing domestic and sexual violence

#### NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Coalitions funding has provided a forum for tribal DV programs, community members, and others to address needs for victims of sexual and domestic violence. This funding provides the Montana Native Women's Coalition the ability to provide the necessary training and/or provide scholarships for tribal DV programs to improve response to sexual and domestic violence victims. Without this funding there would be very limited training available for the tribal programs and there would be no training available that addresses culturally specific concerns and/or issues.

#### MONTANA NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW) has been working diligently to ensure that community partners understand the resources in their communities, so that they feel more comfortable making referrals and seeking out assistance when needed. CSVANW has also been working towards implementing stronger and more comprehensive Native youth violence prevention and early intervention. Native youth exposure to violence and/or perpetuation of violence is a persistent and complex problem within the state of New Mexico. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that within the past year more than 60% of Native youth have been exposed to violence in different sectors of their lives: at home, at school, and within their communities. Violence is the most common and earliest trauma that Native youth experience, often occurring within their home and perpetuated within the family. Although there is a strong agreement among research experts that violence can have detrimental effects on Native youths' emotional, psychological, and physical development, and spiritual connectedness, there is still a lack of community-based prevention and early intervention efforts being implemented.

#### COALITION TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN

## Technical Assistance

Grantees provide technical assistance to help other professionals and organizations improve their response to AI/AN victims and develop their organizational infrastructures, through site visits and consultations. Assistance may include developing or enhancing culturally appropriate services, building a coordinated community response and community support, and supporting victim service administration and operations.

- 22 (96%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of 4,847 technical assistance activities.

**Across the 2-year period, providers most frequently delivered the following forms of assistance:**

- A total of 4,230 consultations; and
- A total of 617 site visits.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees emphasized the need for **community outreach and education in order to:**

- Address common misconceptions and negative stereotypes of victims;
- Educate tribal leaders, community members, and youth about domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- Encourage victims to seek services.

Grantees frequently cited a need for **ongoing staff training because of high turnover** among advocates and other program staff, as well as **stable and sustained funding for services**.

Grantees also felt that more training was needed on **trauma-informed response, especially when working with American Indian/Alaska Native victims** among:

- Tribal leadership and courts;
- Law enforcement and first responders;
- State courts; and
- Native and non-Native service providers.



Grantees noted the need to **improve offender accountability** in order to encourage victims to come forward. They attributed the lack of accountability to:

- Outdated tribal codes;
- Insufficient law enforcement presence on tribal lands;
- Low rates of prosecution;
- A lack of treatment programs for offenders; and
- Jurisdictional issues between tribes, state, and local government that hampered enforcement of court orders.

Grantees pointed to a number of **unmet needs in victim service delivery**, particularly:

- Long-term affordable housing and emergency shelter;
- Mental health and substance abuse services;
- Child care;
- Emergency financial assistance; and
- Transportation.

Finally, grantees underscored the need to **provide services and advocacy to underserved populations**, including:

- Youth;
- Elders; and
- LGBTQ populations.



#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

It is very difficult to secure any victim and their dependents safety when there is limited shelter placement within a reservation boundary; there are only two reservations that currently operate their own shelters. If the Native victim and her dependents must move off the reservation for shelter then there is a strong risk for further victimization, limited services and risk of being found. Since there are limited tribal shelters, often they will be full and/or relatives of the perpetrator will already be in shelter placement. If the Native victim has to move off reservation to a non-tribal based shelter there is strong risk that the Native victim will leave the shelter due to limited cultural understanding of the non-tribal based advocates.

WOMENSPIRIT COALITION



#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

We need to continue to build resources and programming to address gaps in services regarding violence in the LGBTQ communities, in both tribal and non-tribal communities. They are truly an invisible and underserved population with high risk indicators for being victimized and have very few services located in both urban and rural areas which makes them more isolated and more at risk for all forms of violence and sex trafficking.

MENDING THE SACRED HOOP



#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Native American victims face unique cultural barriers that are based upon historical and current events that make the delivery of legal assistance challenging. Native victims may be hesitant to seek help from non-Indian service providers, and several cultural considerations lie under the surface, which are based on generations of each tribe's/nation's respective religion, including extended family concepts, societal structure, and cultural norms, each of which are different for each tribe. Additional training on unique customs, traditions, and nuances for attorneys is needed. Many survivors find themselves represented by attorneys who do not practice a holistic approach to serving victims of domestic violence and are not familiar with the basics of victim advocacy, including the dynamics of domestic violence and the impact of that violence on every aspect of a victim's life including spiritual, physical, mental, cultural, medical, and economic.

NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE

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# Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

The goals and objectives of the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) are to decrease the number of violent crimes (sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking) against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and girls, assist Indian tribes in using their sovereign authority to respond to those crimes, and ensure that people who commit violent crimes against AI/AN women are held responsible for their actions through a strong coordinated community response.

## 240 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 240 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program.

## 6,361 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 6,361 victims and 3,316 children during each 6-month reporting period.

## 1,069 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 1,069 cases, and referred 543 cases to prosecutors.

## Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Develop and enhance culturally competent governmental strategies to reduce violent crimes against and increase the safety of Indian women;
- Increase tribal capacity to respond to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Strengthen tribal justice interventions, including tribal law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities;
- Enhance services to Indian women victimized by domestic/sexual violence;
- Develop a community response regarding the education and prevention;
- Protect the safety of victims and their children by providing supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange;
- Provide transitional housing, support services, and financial assistance to victims; and
- Provide legal assistance to victims seeking justice.

*A nationally representative study found that AI/AN women were 1.2 times more likely to experience domestic violence than non-Hispanic white women (Rosay, 2016).*

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### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to help Native women break the cycle of violence. Without this funding our Native women would not have a place to go. Our funding has allowed us to have an office right on the reservation where clients can come for culturally competent assistance. Residents know where we are located and can come to us for information or help in an emergency. We are co-located with the tribal police where clients can also receive support and help. The only other place for DV and SA assistance is located in town and does not provide the culturally aware help that we can.

**BISHOP INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding is key to the survival of our program and our ability to serve women in our community living in violence or who have been assaulted. Without these funds we would not be able to provide the vital service of transitional housing, or provide the advocacy and education that are needed for women to leave violence and begin their lives again. This grant is the backbone to our services and without these funds our tribe would not be able to assist our women and teach them that violence against women is not traditional.

**EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Funding allows for the full-time employment of a coordinator who is available to all 14,000-plus Native Alaskan/Native American beneficiaries of the entire region. Accessibility is key to victim services as this position is located under the Client Development Department, and has the ability to work with any adult family members that come in as referrals from other programs and departments. This also allows for coordination of services with other programs and outside agencies. The coordinator's ability to travel takes the education and services to where the domestic violence/sexual assault incidents take place most often. This also allows for greater and more in-depth understanding of the people and communities that the DVSA services cover. Having a consistent full-time coordinator in this position is an important part of providing family services to the entire region.

**TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.**

VAWA 2013 added the following purpose areas to the program:

- Expand primary victimization to include sex trafficking;
- Address the needs of youth victims, including providing support to their non-abusing parent or caretaker; and
- Develop and promote legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence against Indian women.

These purpose areas were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under one of the added purpose areas could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **240** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
  - Develop and enhance effective governmental strategies to curtail violent crimes against and increase the safety of Indian women consistent with tribal law and custom;
  - Increase tribal capacity to respond to crimes against Indian women; and
  - Strengthen tribal justice interventions including tribal law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, supervised visitation, law enforcement, prosecution, probation, court services, and batterer intervention programs, among other services, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **229** (95%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **350** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates, administrators, and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>350</b>	
Victim advocates	135	39%
Administrators	47	13%
Program coordinators	45	13%
Support staff	18	5%
Batterer intervention program staff	17	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Training

Grantees train a wide range of professionals, from tribal elders and spiritual leaders to health professionals and victim advocates, among others, how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence.

**This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **135** (56%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **929** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **15,470** people.
- Most often these trainings reached multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**14%**), victim advocates (**11%**), and tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**11%**).

## Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide information and outreach to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. Outreach activities can include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, bake sales, and parades. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**<sup>i</sup>

- **188** (78%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **172,071** people.
- Grantees conducted a total of **4,604** outreach activities.

<sup>i</sup> Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables an individual to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The ability to bring best practices and victim sensitivity training and education to professionals and community members is instrumental in combating myths, victim-blaming, and lack of offender accountability that occurs within the Nation’s jurisdiction. Continued funding is imperative to: the ongoing fight against domestic and sexual violence and stalking; collaboration with law enforcement, first responders, and professionals/community members; and most importantly, to providing survivors support in the role of the advocate.

MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak to research and design an appropriate sexual assault awareness curriculum for outreach to our Alutiiq teenage population. This will help educate our youth about what sexual assault is, the varieties of sexual assault, and the community resources available to them should they need assistance one day. It will allow the Sun’aq Tribe a more seamless coordination between Sun’aq and law enforcement and to enhance outreach to sexual assault victims by reinforcing the existing relationships that are in place.

SUN’AQ TRIBE OF KODIAK



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Funding through the Tribal Governments program has allowed program staff to attend village wellness team meetings and community meetings to begin gathering resources for a Tribal Response Team Program. Funding also allowed program staff to assist villages to reactivate Wellness Teams and collaborate with the Bristol Bay Sexual Assault Response Team, who has agreed to become the Advisory Committee for the Tribal Response Team Program. Program staff is also in the process of planning a Bristol Bay-specific 2017 SART Training.

**BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled the tribe to start up a new Domestic Violence Circle of Healing program. The Domestic Violence Program Coordinator/Caseworker has begun service delivery to tribal victims. She has created a resource directory of community and government agencies in our five-county service area to facilitate timely and appropriate referrals to assist victims with safety and self-sufficiency needs as they work to free themselves from domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled us to operate an Emergency Support Response fund so that we can facilitate prompt and immediate access to safety for victims.

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS LOWER UMPQUA**

**Table 2** | People educated with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:  
Selected groups

People educated	2-year total	
<b>Total people educated</b>	<b>172,071</b>	
Community members	98,574	57%
Students	40,170	23%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims and their children, including safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **205** (85%) grantees used funds for victim services.

Grantees provide victims with a wide range of services, including victim advocacy, civil legal advocacy, and crisis intervention. Victims also need assistance with material goods and services, as well as health, education, financial, transportation, employment, and legal issues. In addition, grantees provide a variety of services to victims' children including, but not limited to, child care, transportation, and counseling.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **6,361** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.
- Grantees also provided a total of **48,167** services to an average of **3,316** children of victims during the 2-year reporting period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **3,734** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **3,022** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **2,032** victims;
- Transportation services to **1,787** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **1,666** victims;
- Cultural advocacy services to **998** victims; and
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **806** victims.

**Other services:**

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **31,512** times; and
- Grantees received a total of **65,567** hotline calls.

**Across the 2-year period, grantees most frequently provided the following services:<sup>ii</sup>**

- Victim advocacy services **102,600** times;
- Support group/counseling services **39,131** times;
- Transportation services **28,237** times;
- Crisis intervention **22,550** times;
- Civil legal advocacy **15,431** times;
- Cultural advocacy **9,791** times; and
- Criminal justice advocacy **6,731** times.

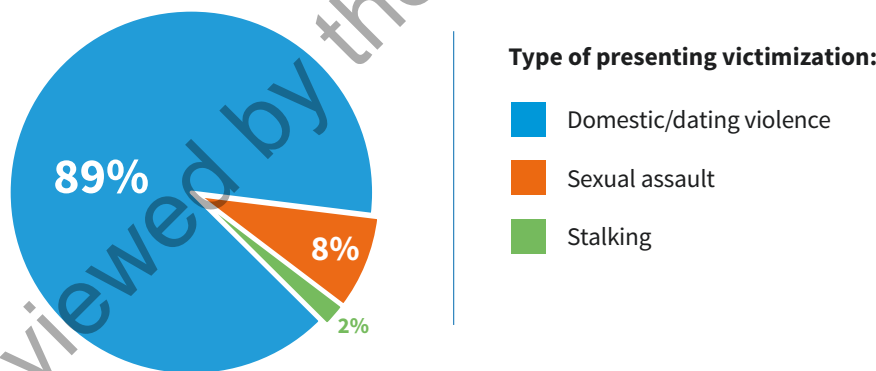
**Victims Seeking Services**

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (89%).

**Figure 1** | Provision of victim services by Tribal Governments Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

This funding alone allowed us to provide over 790 direct services to victims in our community so far this year. In total, these funds have allowed victims to overcome violence, improved law enforcement response to crimes, implemented a sexual assault forensic examination program to the area via collaboration with other community partners, allowed education to be provided to the community and our youth, and allowed our community to develop trust in our program.

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE OF MICHIGAN



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The funds have been used to help with transportation barriers, childcare struggles, basic needs such as food, clothing and toiletries and, more importantly, hope for over 30 new clients over the past six months. We are incredibly grateful for the support this funding provides and are excited about what the future holds for our program.

SUQUAMISH TRIBE

<sup>ii</sup> The Tribal Governments Program is unique in that grantees are asked to report the number of times each type of service is provided. This allows for the reporting of an unduplicated count of number of services, despite the duplicated count of number of victims served.



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The Tribal Governments Program funding has allowed the Nation to truly focus on improving services to victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This allows for increasing victim and survivor safety and enhancing community response. As a general matter, it has enabled the Nation to identify the problems associated with this issue and identify goals, objectives, and activities to address them.

**ONEIDA INDIAN NATION**

**Table 3** | Victims seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>6,487</b>	
Victims served	6,084	94%
Victims partially served	277	4%
Victims not served	127	2%

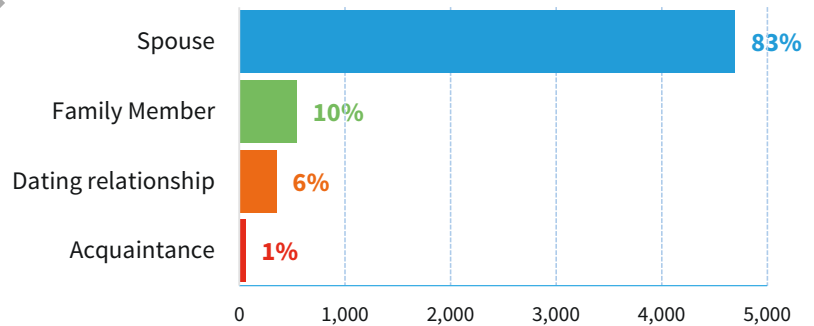
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

**Victims' Relationship to Offender**

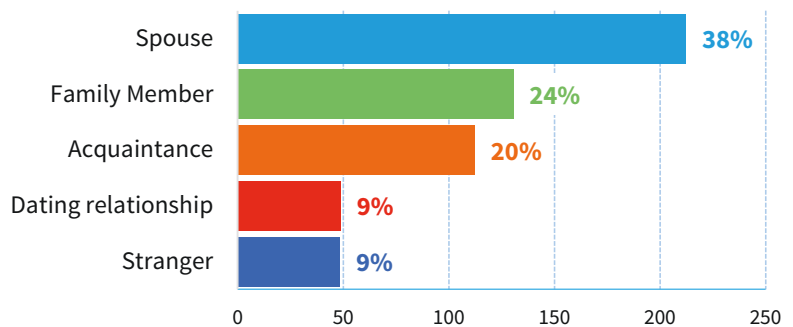
Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (79%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (11%) or in the context of a **dating relationship** (7%).

**Figure 2** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

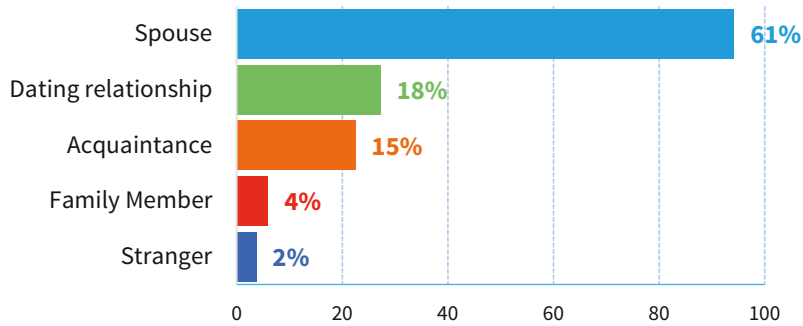


**Figure 3** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)





**Figure 4** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**  
(6-month average)



### Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

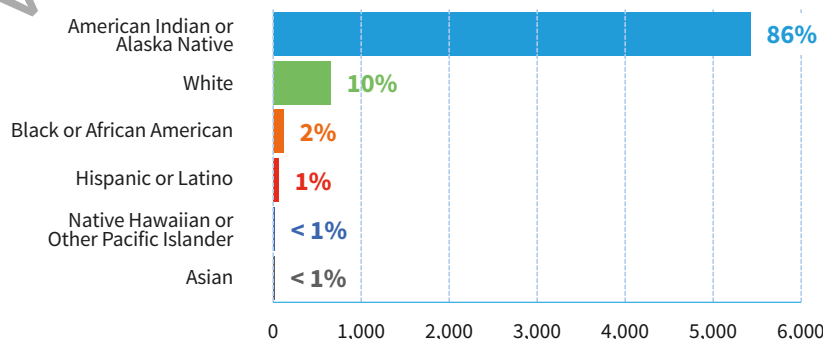
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Program rules not acceptable to victim;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting;
- Conflict of interest; or
- Program reached capacity.

### Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **6,361** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (86%), **female** (95%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (74%).

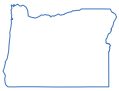
**Figure 5** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity**  
(6-month average)



#### NE • Grantee Perspective

This funding has made it possible for us, for the first time, to have a staff member based in western Nebraska and to conduct regular outreach in remote communities with Native populations. Without this funding we could not afford to have any presence in these communities. Not only have we been able to provide legal services to individual victims in western Nebraska, but we have been able to start work to systemically address issues that perpetuate domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking in Whiteclay, NE.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled the tribe to start a new Domestic Violence Circle of Healing program. The Domestic Violence Program Coordinator/ Caseworker has begun service delivery to tribal victims. She has been able to create a resource directory of community and government agencies in our five-county service area to facilitate timely and appropriate referrals to assist victims with safety and self-sufficiency needs as they work to free themselves from domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled us to operate an emergency support response fund to facilitate prompt and immediate access to safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA, AND SIUSLAW INDIANS**



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The Tribal Governments Program allows us to serve many women and children fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault. These people came to a safe and secure place without having to pay fees to stay, and were provided shelter, food, and clothing, all basic human needs. Shelter staff enabled clients to set and attain goals, and guided clients in matters such as registering children for school and after school programs, finding job resources, and updating important necessities such as healthcare and documentation.

**MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS**

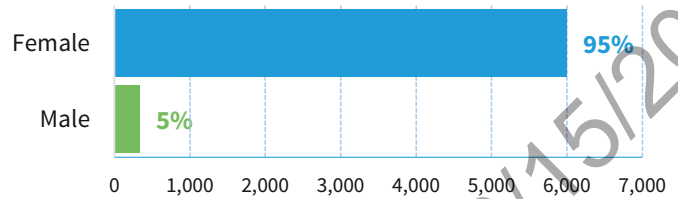


**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

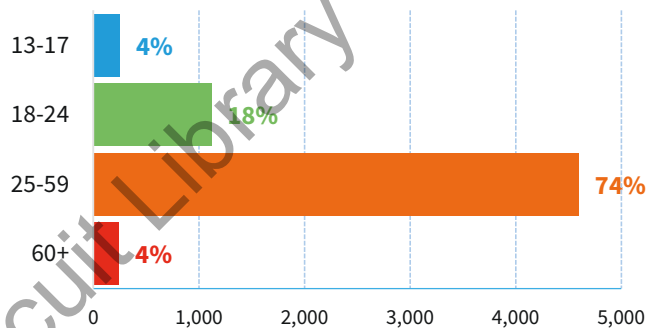
The funds have allowed us to take victims and their children out of abusive homes and provide emergency shelter and transitional housing. Since Cahuilla Consortium was established in 2010, we have assisted over 100 Native and non-Native families with direct assistance and/ or resources to live without abuse.

**LOS COYOTES BAND OF INDIANS**

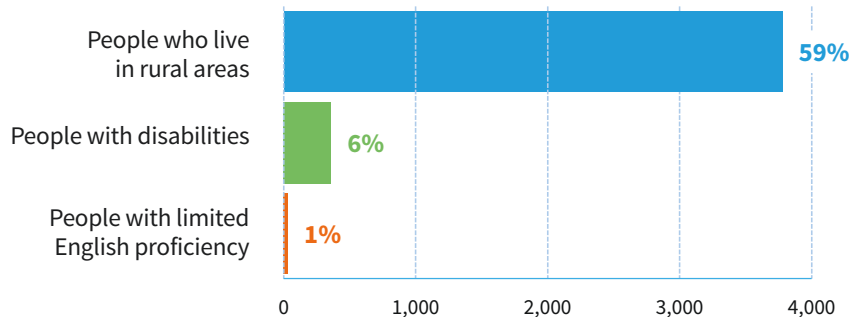
**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



### Shelter/Transitional Housing Assistance

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

- **150** (63%) grantees used funds for shelter/transitional housing services.

**Table 4** | Victims sheltered with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	1,106	1,288	142,724
Transitional housing	228	349	149,616
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>292,340</b>

## Legal Services

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims.

- **69** (29%) grantees used funds for legal services.
- Grantees addressed an average of **833** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided legal services to an average of **505** victims every 6 months.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **232** victims every 6 months (46% of those receiving legal services).
- Grantees achieved a total of **3,141** case outcomes.
- Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and custody/visitation arrangements.

## Supervised Visitation

Grantees provide an array of supervised visitation and/or exchange services to families. These services include, but are not limited to, one-on-one supervised visits, group supervised visits, supervised exchanges, and telephone monitoring.

- **16** (7%) grantees used funds for supervised visitation and/or exchange services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **48** families during each 6-month period.
- **97%** of families who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

**Across the 2-year period, grantees provided the following services:**

- A total of **1,083** one-to-one supervised visits to an average of **22** families; and
- A total of **532** supervised exchanges to an average of **19** families.



### NE • Grantee Perspective

This funding allows us to provide high quality legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These services are vital and change lives. With this continuation grant we have expanded the legal services available to include the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. The Omaha Tribe has the largest population of any tribe headquartered in Nebraska, and the need for legal services on the Omaha Tribal Reservation is as great if not greater than any other area we serve. We are targeting information specifically to Omaha victims, have substantially increased office hours on the Omaha Tribal Reservation, and are meeting with responders and service providers working with the Omaha tribe. One out of every six victims served during this reporting period were members of the Omaha Tribe. The continuation funding also has allowed us to expand our legal services to the significant population of Native American victims in Western Nebraska, a population that before was almost completely unserved.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The funding has allowed us to be engaged on a full-time basis in providing an avenue in which victims will be assured their safety during exchanges of their children. We also provide a supervised setting which facilitates safety and security in which non-custodial parents can visit with their children.

ISLETA PUEBLO



**NE • Grantee Perspective**

With this funding, we provide free legal advice and representation to Native victims/survivors in matters related to their victimization. Just this reporting period we provided this service to 76 Native Americans. Without this funding we may be able to provide assistance to some of those victims/survivors, but the number of persons we could assist would likely be significantly fewer, and many more would only be partially served.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The funding allows this project to empower and serve victims in three crucial ways: 1) To provide an attorney well-trained in domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault to represent victims in the civil jurisdictional arena. Without this service, victims would have to appear alone oftentimes against a batterer who has an attorney that emulates batterer behaviors. Civil legal representation has been identified as one of the most pressing needs to address victims' needs. 2) To provide victim services such as an advocate who works in tandem with the civil attorney to tailor holistic services to meet the needs of each victim, to provide transportation for the victim, to provide referral to other service providers as requested/needed, and to provide safety planning that is revisited with each client contact. 3) To promote victim confidentiality and safety by providing a safe, anonymous location for victims to go for assistance that is outside of the view of the tribal complex.

APACHE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

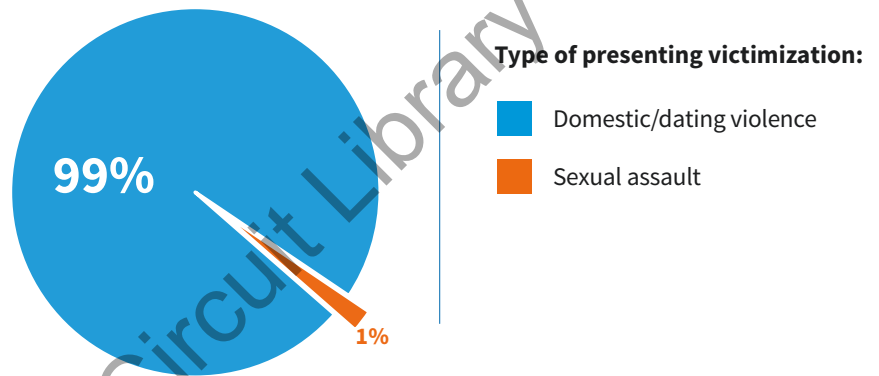
## Families Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of families served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (99%).

**Figure 9** Provision of family services by Tribal Governments Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Families served and partially served by type of victimization** (6-month average)



**Table 5** Families seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Families seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total families seeking services</b>	<b>49</b>	
Families served	48	96%
Families partially served	< 1	1%
Families not served	2	3%

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. "Not served" represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

## Demographics of Families Served and Partially Served

The majority of custodial parents were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (82%), **female** (65%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (87%), with children between the ages of **0 and 6** (59%). Non-custodial parents were most likely to be **American Indian or Alaska Native** (86%), **male** (51%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (79%).

## Criminal Justice

In addition to the disproportionate impact of violence on Native women, men, and children, there are unique legal and geographical barriers to responding to these crimes. Factors including the race of the victims and perpetrator, the legal status of the land on which the incident occurred, and the type of crime committed determine under whose jurisdiction a particular crime falls. Some crimes fall under federal jurisdiction, others under the tribe's, and the legal factors of some incidents are such that no agency has jurisdiction, meaning that victims can face escalated danger and their offenders will not be held accountable. VAWA 2013 included a provision that restores tribes' inherent authority to exercise jurisdiction over some crimes of domestic violence and violations of protection orders involving non-Native offenders. In addition to jurisdictional issues, many tribal communities are remote and isolated and some tribes have limited resources for responding to domestic/sexual violence. For instance, law enforcement response time in some parts of Alaska can take hours or even days in bad weather.

The Tribal Governments Program supports the efforts of tribal governments to develop or enhance a coordinated community response that brings together law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. Some Tribal Governments grantees have used grant funds to support their effort to exercise jurisdiction under VAWA 2013, in accordance with all applicable laws.

## Law Enforcement

Grantees use funds to support law enforcement response to domestic/sexual violence. Tribal law enforcement officers respond to emergency calls for assistance, interview key witnesses, and are often familiar with the people and circumstances involved in a given case, due to the small and isolated nature of some tribal communities. Every other agency, including prosecution, depends on them to supply critical information about a case. For this reason, it is common for tribal law enforcement officers to provide continuing assistance throughout the length of a case. Tribal law enforcement is a vital component of the peacekeeping and accountability process for the tribal nations they serve.

- **20** (8%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **452** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

**A proactive response and victim-centered approach influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.**

*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that nearly half (46%) of AI/AN women have experienced some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime. Research also shows that AI/AN women experience murder rates more than ten times the national average (Bachman et al., 2008; Petrosky et al., 2017; Smith et al., 2017; Wilson, 2017).*

*The 2015 American Community Survey found that 26.2% of AI/AN people live in poverty, the highest rate of any racial group, making this population particularly vulnerable to domestic violence (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017c).*

*A recent study of AI/AN housing conditions and policies in Indian Country, the largest of its kind to date, found that physical housing problems in tribal areas are generally more severe than they are for U.S. households on average. Twelve percent of AI/AN households reported experiencing heating deficiencies and 16% reported overcrowded conditions, as compared to a national average of 2% of households in both categories. These challenges, along with higher rates of disability and ill-health, poverty, prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse, and the legacies of colonialism in AI/AN communities compound the difficulty of becoming and remaining safe from sexual/domestic violence (Harley, 2018; Indian Health Services, 2017; Office of Minority Health, 2018; Pindus et al., 2017).*



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

This funding opportunity has allowed us to build a dedicated team of professionals who work together on a daily basis to achieve the same common goal of protecting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This team consists of an investigator, a prosecutor, and a victim advocate. Over the next 12 months we will be working in conjunction with Women Spirit Coalition on developing standard operating procedures for law enforcement to use when responding to crimes involving intimate partner abuse and sexual assault. Once the SOP is created, training will be provided to all law enforcement on the implementation of those procedures.

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COLVILLE**



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The Iowa Tribal Governments Program (TGP) has become an integral part of responding to victims in all the court systems in our jurisdiction and in many of our law enforcement agencies. We accept calls from officers and victims as a part of our statewide Lethality Assessment Protocol. In the last 6 months, the TGP program has been able to help 42 victims obtain safety, security, and/or shelter.

**IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

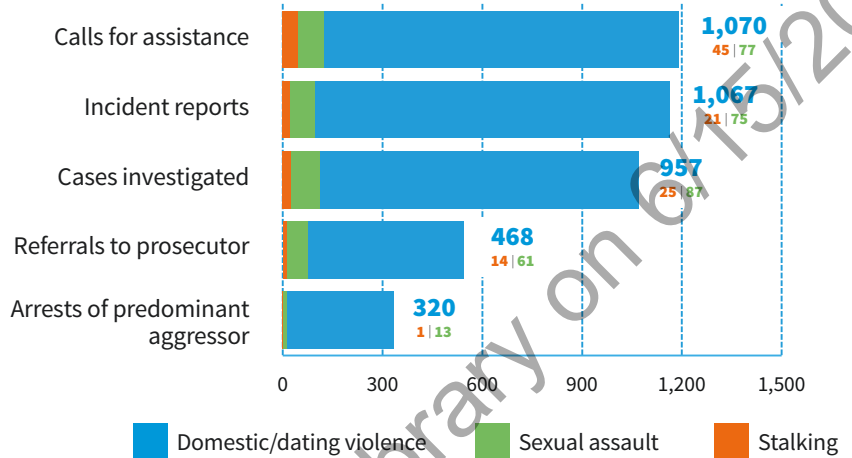


**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

Through this funding, we maintain a close relationship with our Domestic Violence Prosecutor to streamline services and alleviate service gaps to victims. There is a faster and more thorough process for victims that are involved in domestic abuse/sexual assault cases. The funds provided by this grant are instrumental in providing some level of safety for victims of domestic violence.

**EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL**

**Figure 10** Law enforcement activities in Tribal Governments Program criminal cases, July 2015–June 2017



**NOTE:** Grantees report only on law enforcement activities that are funded under the Tribal Governments Program and they may receive funds for one or for a number of these activities. Therefore, no relationships can be inferred or comparisons made between activities reported here.

**Prosecution**

Tribal prosecutors play a significant role in securing safety and justice for Native victims of domestic/sexual violence. Approaches to prosecution vary by state and tribal nation. Tribal police and prosecutors need to be equipped with the tools, resources, and expertise to respond to domestic/sexual violence, make charging decisions, and issue sentences consistent with applicable statutes. **Grantees that use funds for prosecution activities may pursue prosecution by making referrals to appropriate external agencies and/or by prosecuting case referrals they received.**

- 8 (3%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecutors received a total of 625 case referrals pertaining to domestic/sexual violence, and accepted a total of 548<sup>iii</sup> (88%) cases for prosecution across the 2-year period.
- Prosecution staff made a total of 320 victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

<sup>iii</sup> Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period.

Table 6   Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017			
Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
All cases	625	548	88%
Domestic/dating violence	555	492	89%
Sexual assault	63	53	84%
Stalking	7	3	43%

Table 7   Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017			
Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	562	493	88%
Domestic/dating violence	383	328	86%
Sexual assault	24	21	88%
Stalking	12	9	75%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

This office is comprised of three prosecutors, myself included, and without my position the two remaining prosecutors would be completely unable to effectively prosecute cases in this jurisdiction. Victims are often unaware of the services which are offered by the Tribe, both grant and tribally funded. Because of this grant, I am able to effectively have contact with victims and address any concerns they may have. Without this grant, the Prosecutor’s office would be unable to give the necessary time to DV and sexual assault cases and would undermine the community’s confidence in the justice system, resulting in fewer reported incidents.

**MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN**

**Courts**

**There is wide variety in the types of tribal court systems, and the laws are unique to each tribal nation.** Some tribal courts are modeled similarly to Western-style courts, where written laws and rules of court are applied. Other tribes adhere to more traditional means of resolving disputes, including the use of peacemaking, elders’ councils, sentencing circles, and banishment. Many tribes that are implementing new tribal courts, or enhancing established ones, are developing hybrid or blended systems that incorporate traditional dispute resolution procedures that are effective in their cultures and communities, while also ensuring that the “rule of law” and due process principles are applied.

- 6 (3%) grantees used funds for court activities.
- A total of 207 judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.
- Court staff made a total of 3 victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

This funding has allowed the Kaw Domestic Violence Program to provide legal and court assistance to victims of Domestic Violence who had no means to acquire legal representation and other legal services. Without this assistance they would have remained in a dangerous unsafe environment.

**KAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA**

**Table 8** Disposition of court cases funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
<b>All cases</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>29%</b>
Domestic/dating violence	76	18	24%
Stalking	6	0	0%
Sexual assault	2	0	0%

**NOTE:** Convictions include deferred adjudications.



#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Instead of a piecemeal DV treatment approach with constant worry over funding, we can focus on Tribal Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) continuity. We can build a solid BIP that is not based on personality, desperation, or being driven by crisis. It's helping us establish a permanent BIP in the Tribal community that will continue to help families heal and improve quality of life and victim safety into future generations.

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS**



#### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Lac du Flambeau Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) has been a helpful and highly effective way to hold batterers accountable in the tribal community. The wrap around services provided in BIP allow for the entire family to experience a safe place to learn healthy relationship and communication skills. Because of the BIP services, many families get to experience a whole family recovery process while maintaining a family relationship within their homes. This is very important to Native American families.

**LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

## Tribal Probation/Offender Monitoring

Offender monitoring occurs when the court schedules probation or court reviews to determine whether offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- **5** (2%) grantees used funds for review activities.
- An average of **391** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.

Across the 2-year period, these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:

- A total of **5,380** face-to-face contacts with an average of **275** offenders;
- A total of **3,354** telephone contacts with an average of **280** offenders; and
- A total of **326** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **70** offenders.

**Table 9** Probation activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program, July 2015–June 2017

Activity	
<b>Average number of offenders (6-month average)</b>	<b>391</b>
<b>Total number of offenders who completed probation</b>	<b>36</b>
Offenders completing probation with violations	19
Offenders completing probation without violations	17



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **housing**, including **emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term affordable housing**, as their biggest unmet need. While shelter services were sometimes available in nearby areas, grantees reported that victims were often reluctant to use these resources, preferring to remain within their own communities.

Even with housing, grantees reported that victims continued to struggle to achieve independence due to their **inability to access basic necessities**, such as:

- Employment;
- Child care;
- Job training;
- Food assistance;
- Utility assistance;
- Transportation.

Grantees also noted that **co-occurring issues, such as substance abuse, mental illness, and long histories of trauma** complicated efforts to help victims achieve self-sufficiency.

Despite efforts to encourage victims to report abuse and receive needed services, grantees reported that **domestic violence and sexual assault victims were often hesitant to come forward**. They attributed this to:

- A lack of anonymity in small rural communities and on tribal land;
- Entrenched cultural beliefs that encourage victims to stay with their abusers;
- A lack of law enforcement presence on tribal lands;
- The need to maintain financial stability and housing;
- Little knowledge of available services; and
- Beliefs that offenders would not be held accountable for their actions.

Many grantees noted the necessity of **providing community education and outreach** in order to:

- Advance knowledge of available services;
- Combat harmful cultural beliefs that shame victims; and
- Teach community members about the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence while providing models for healthy relationships.



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

A significant area of remaining need in regard to improving services to victims is housing and shelter options. Twenty-one clients since January have either been homeless, in shelter attempting to find housing, or still in their place of abuse trying to find housing. Many clients could not find affordable housing or chose to return to their situations because of inability to obtain a sustainable solution in terms of housing even with emergency shelter being provided through hotels and shelters. Had all twenty-one of them ended up succeeding in their original plan of finding a place for themselves and their children, the program would have been oversaturated with requests for relocation funds for first month's rent and would have run out of money before the end of the funding cycle. CARE recognizes this as a possibility and future potentiality and thus has been participating in tribal discussions on housing grants for the program or partner programs that could possibly give priority to domestic and sexual violence survivors.

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

There is no specific program identified for offender accountability. We do not have a batterer intervention program or anything designed to help change offender behavior. Our jurisdiction also struggles with bringing domestic violence cases to trial based on victim participation, and evidence-based prosecution has not been an area of focus by the Office of the Tribal Prosecutor. We need to develop a new approach to evidence gathering for cases of this nature as well as having better sentencing options and alternatives so that we can begin to effectively address the domestic violence epidemic and break the cycle of violence that exists in our tribal community. We need to be creative and think outside the box on how to move more of these cases to adjudication and sentencing rather than dismissing cases based on lack of victim follow-through and participation.

**SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Our community is very rural and geographically isolated from many needed services and resources and this results in specific and unique challenges to adequate service provision. One of the main challenges our victims face is adequate and reliable transportation. For many cases, our clients have court cases, required meetings for social services, and even basic food and supply needs that require them to travel to the coast. Many of our clients do not have reliable transportation and this results in significant staff time spent transporting clients. A one-hour court hearing generally takes almost the entire working day of an advocate to provide the client transportation to and from court. This occurs fairly regularly and takes up significant staff time. Additionally, our program has one vehicle we use to transport clients and attend networking meetings. If two clients have court on the same day, this presents a challenge for our program to maintain victim confidentiality while also ensuring clients receive needed support and transportation.

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE

### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Domestic violence is often an unpleasant topic that communities want to veer away from. Within Native American communities, abused women suffer greater effects of the power and control tactic of isolation, than do women living in non-Native communities. The result of historical trauma increases isolative practices, such as greater mistrust of outside agencies, such as law enforcement, social services, victim's advocates, etc. Victims tend not to seek out help when being abused due to this mistrust. Reaching out to fellow community members is also avoided due to shame and fear of alliances or relationships community members have with the batterer. Community empowerment and bystander intervention to address this need can only be achieved through education and awareness. Trust building can only be done over time and with consistency and visibility. More time is needed to address this remaining need.

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

Many grantees reported the need for measures to **enhance offender accountability**, including:

- Specialized training for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement on the dynamics of domestic violence;
- Funding for dedicated domestic violence investigators, prosecutors, and courts;
- Longer sentencing for repeat offenders;
- Updating tribal codes regarding domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Developing Native batterer intervention programs;
- Improved victim access to legal assistance; and
- Ability to access and enter information into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) databases.

Grantees also reported that **jurisdictional issues between Tribal governments, cities, states, and counties** further complicated community efforts to hold offenders accountable.

Finally, grantees expressed a need to ensure the sustainability of programs and services by addressing **staff shortages and high turnover rates** in grantee organizations, especially in rural and geographically isolated communities.

# Tribal Jurisdictions Program

Throughout their lifetime, nearly 1 in 2 American Indian and Alaska Native women will suffer physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking by an intimate partner (U.S Census Bureau, 2017c). However, until the passage of VAWA 2013, tribal courts could not exercise jurisdiction over crimes committed by non-Indian domestic violence abusers against their Indian spouses, intimate partners, and dating partners on tribal land. The historic provision within VAWA 2013 formally recognized the inherent power of participating tribes to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ) over both Indians and non-Indians who commit crimes of domestic violence or dating violence, or violate certain protection orders in Indian Country. Accordingly, in FY 2016, Congress authorized the Tribal Jurisdictions Program, which is designed to assist Indian tribes that have jurisdiction over Indian Country in exercising SDVCJ.

**THROUGH THIS GRANT PROGRAM, INDIAN TRIBES RECEIVE SUPPORT** and technical assistance for planning, developing, and implementing changes in their criminal justice systems necessary to exercise SDVCJ. The Tribal Jurisdictions Program encourages the coordinated involvement of the entire tribal criminal justice system and victim service providers to incorporate systemic change that ensures victim safety and offender accountability. Competitive awards were made for the first time in 2016, and tribes' efforts to prepare to implement SDVCJ started prior to their receipt of Tribal Jurisdictions grants. Thus, while there are limited data from the periods covered in this report, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)'s five year report on SDVCJ implementation provides detailed information about nationwide implementation of SDVCJ, including what Tribal Jurisdictions grantees accomplished prior to and following their receipt of Tribal Jurisdictions awards (National Congress of American Indians, 2018).

## Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, 7 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Jurisdictions Program.

*AI/AN women are nearly 1.3 times more likely in their lifetime to experience physical and or sexual violence, or stalking by an intimate partner than non-Hispanic white women (Smith et al., 2017).*

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Strengthen the tribal criminal justice systems to assist the tribes in exercising SDVCJ;
- Provide indigent criminal defendants with defense counsel;
- Ensure that jurors are summoned, selected, and instructed in a manner consistent with applicable requirements; and
- Ensure that victims' rights are similar to the rights of crime victims in other jurisdictions and consistent with tribal culture.

*In order to successfully exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction, tribes need to engage tribal leaders, tribal judges, tribal prosecutors, tribal defenders, tribal attorneys, law enforcement, and victim service providers, and tribes must include resolution from their governing body demonstrating this cooperation in their grant applications.*



#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

Claiming jurisdiction over non-Native men who commit crimes of domestic/dating violence, or who violate a protection order against a victim who lives on tribal land, is instrumental in keeping Native women safe.

**PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE**



#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

This Tribal Jurisdictions Program has been instrumental in allowing the Yurok Tribe to set up an initial infrastructure to support the tribal court's exercise of criminal jurisdiction in an area where it has historically lacked funding for court/law enforcement development.

**YUROK TRIBE**

#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

Grant funds allocated for training were used to send our project director, to the Inter-Tribal Working Group on Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (ITWG) and the 42nd Annual Indian Law Conference. Little Traverse Bay Band's participation included an update on our ability to exercise SDVCJ, along with consulting with other tribes on the obstacles in implementing SDVCJ.

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BAND OF ODAWA INDIANS**

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **7** grantees for the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 reporting periods.

- During these first two reporting periods, grantees focused on planning and preparation activities.
- Of the four purpose areas addressed by the Tribal Jurisdictions Program, grantees most frequently addressed strengthening the tribal criminal justice system to assist tribes in exercising SDVCJ.
- In future reporting periods, grantees will begin providing victim services; providing criminal defendants with legal representation; and funding law enforcement, prosecution, and tribal court activities. Data on these activities will appear in future Reports to Congress; and
- All grantees must participate in the Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG), a group of tribal representatives who exchange views, information, and best practices regarding the implementation of SDVCJ.

## Staff

- **4** out of 7 grantees (57%) used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **0.3** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees used these staffing funds to support administrators and program coordinators.

## Training

- **4** out of 7 grantees (57%) used funds to provide or attend training.
- A total of **15** people were trained.
- Grantees used these training funds most frequently to address topics surrounding civil and criminal court procedures; jurisdictional issues; protection orders; sexual assault statutes/codes; cultural issues specific to American Indians and/or Alaska Natives; and domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Because only two reporting periods of data are available for the Tribal Jurisdictions Program, and the grantee pool is very small, it is not yet feasible to extrapolate trends regarding remaining areas of need as reported by grantees. These will appear in future Reports to Congress.

# Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (T-SASP) was created by VAWA 2005, and is the first federal funding stream dedicated solely to developing culturally relevant services that are specifically responsive to sexual assault victims within tribal communities. Because tribes reflect great diversity of history, geographic location, language, socioeconomic conditions, and retention of traditional spiritual and cultural practices, the T-SASP tribal grantees are strongly encouraged to incorporate cultural and traditional practices (e.g. talking circles, healing ceremonies, and sweat lodges) for those who have been sexually victimized.

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF T-SASP IS TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, and expand culturally specific intervention and related assistance for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) victims of sexual assault. Grantees are Indian tribes, tribal government organizations, and nonprofit tribal organizations. They provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g. accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, and police departments), support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault; non-offending family and household members of victims; and those collaterally affected by sexual assault.**

## 37 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 37 unique grantees reported activities funded by the T-SASP Program.

## 555 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 555 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 261 Secondary Victims Served

On average, grantees served 261 secondary victims during each 6-month reporting period.

*Many Native Americans do not live near a facility offering SANE or SART services. Research shows gaps in sexual assault services and coverages for more than two-thirds of Native American lands, and some communities have no coverage at all. Efforts are underway to improve interagency coordination and develop tribal-centric SARTs to address the particular needs of AI/AN victims of sexual violence. These efforts were facilitated by the SDVCJ provisions of VAWA 2013 (Deer, 2017; Juraska et al., 2014).*

Last viewed by the Digital Content Library on 6/15/2022



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Without T-SASP funding we would still be living in an era where sexual violence is taboo and not to be talked about. We have young women coming forward sharing their experiences as well as our grandmothers telling their stories. We are holding perpetrators accountable for their behavior. We are not making excuses for their behavior. T-SASP funds have allowed us to become a healthier Nation. We have taken just baby steps but those would not have been possible without T-SASP's funding. Our women are learning to become sacred again! In the past that sacredness was often overlooked or not even thought about. We are creating a healthier nation where every woman, man, boy, or girl should never have to suffer the traumatization of sexual assault.

PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

T-SASP grant funding has allowed for the continued employment of one full-time clinical social worker (CSW) dedicated solely to the provision of outpatient therapy services to Sault Tribe survivors of sexual assault or sexual abuse. The CSW position is able to provide the following advocacy supports that are above and beyond traditional outpatient therapy service provisions: accompaniment to medical appointments to assist with appropriate medication and expression of mental health concerns, including follow-up appointments for medication check-ins; STI/STD appointments made on behalf of clients to ease embarrassment and fear; referral assistance for PAP exams and education about the importance of well woman exams; and psychological testing referrals. Psychiatric referrals are made for many clients due to severe trauma and mental health concerns. Telepsychiatry is offered one day per week at the Tribe's Health Center where therapy is offered as well. The CSW will attend the first appointment with the client and will usually attend the follow-up appointments as well if clients have difficulty talking with a stranger about their trauma and mental health.

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose area to this program:

- Address the needs of youth victims, including providing support to their non-abusing parent or caretaker.

In addition, VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

These changes were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under the added purpose area could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **37** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

### Staff

Grant-funded staff primarily establish, maintain, and expand coordinated community responses within their catchment areas; and provide victim services, including advocacy, crisis intervention, legal assistance, court and hospital accompaniment, and transportation. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **35** (95%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **27** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with T-SASP grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:  
Selected groups

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>27</b>	
Victim advocates	<b>17</b>	<b>63%</b>
Program coordinators	<b>3</b>	<b>11%</b>
Administrators	<b>2</b>	<b>7%</b>
Counselors	<b>2</b>	<b>7%</b>

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

## Victim Services

Grantees address the specific cultural needs of AI/AN victims, and may provide crisis intervention; safety planning; services such as legal advocacy, medical, and counseling services from healthcare professionals; and accompaniment to forensic exams and to court. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **32** (86%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **555** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **325** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **266** victims;
- Transportation services to **258** victims;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **252** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **243** victims;
- Cultural advocacy services to **141** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **121** victims; and
- Civil legal advocacy services to **106** victims.

### Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **4,749** times;
- Grantees received a total of **3,254** hotline calls; and
  - The majority of these calls (**82%**) came from victims.

## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault.

**Table 2** | Victims seeking services with T-SASP grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>559</b>	
Victims served	<b>521</b>	<b>93%</b>
Victims partially served	<b>34</b>	<b>6%</b>
Victims not served	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the T-SASP grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the T-SASP grant.



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

T-SASP funding allows the program to help offset some of the financial strain experienced by victims of assault. Oftentimes, physical or emotional trauma prohibits victims from being able to function in a work setting. In many cases, victims are displaced from their homes, or are too traumatized to return to the area where the assault occurred, and are in need of safe and secure housing. By having this special pot of funding we are able to help victims of sexual assault by lessening the worry and concern of finances. We are able to promote healing through advocacy and through referrals to counseling. Being from a small tribe and a poverty-stricken area, this funding has created opportunities for victims to seek assistance and, more importantly, to have someone who believes them and has genuine concern for their well-being without them having to meet the burden of proof.

#### SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

When the Lac Du Flambeau Sensitive Crimes Response Team (SCRT) began back in 2012 the word quickly spread throughout the community that we had a sexual assault program. By providing a lot of advertising and public education within our county, the number of sexual assaults being reported greatly increased. More people were using the crisis line to call in and report suspected child sexual abuse and date rape. Because the numbers of victims being presented were so high for the children/youth community we have been able to start creating an SCRT protocol for responding to this issue.

#### LAC DU FLAMBEAU DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SHELTER PROGRAM



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Sexual Assault Program funding has allowed our program to hire a full-time sexual assault advocate, part-time counselor, and supportive staff to continue direct services for victims/survivors of sexual assault and their collaterally affected loved ones. One brave young lady participating in our program finally got the courage to tell her mother that her step-father had been molesting her for many years. The jury trial was horrific for the victim and her family. The counselor and sexual assault advocate provided ongoing supportive services through every step of her journey. Although we prepared her on what to expect during her cross examination, no one was ready to hear the Public Defender's multiple attacks on her character, memory, etc. After suffering years of molestation and then re-victimized through the court system for over a year, her battle to seek justice ended in a hung jury. Fortunately, when the District Attorney decided to re-try the step-father, he settled for a plea bargain. During the course of the trial, many of the young lady's family members and friends requested supportive assistance from the sexual assault advocate. The young lady, her family, her new boyfriend, and other friends have greatly expressed their gratitude for our support. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Victim Services is grateful that the T-SASP grant allows us to help our community members and their friends and family in times of need.

**PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM**



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving this funding, we could not serve the primary victims of sexual assault under eighteen. Now that we can, we are definitely seeing a service gap in our community being filled that was empty for a long time. Since expanding to serve those under eighteen, a large percentage of our clients coming in for these services are teenagers.

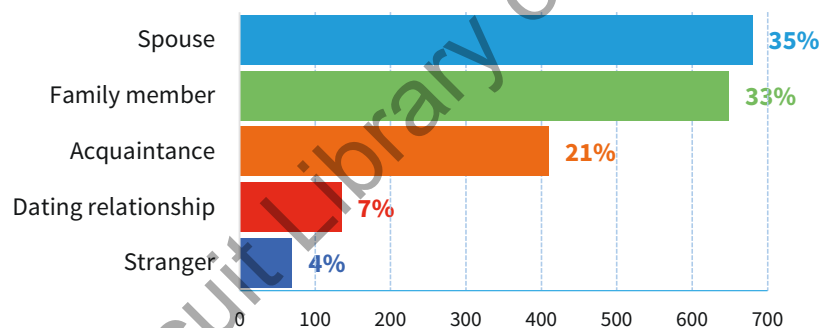
**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS CARE PROGRAM**

## Victims' Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of sexual assault. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (35%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by a **family or other household member** (33%) or by an **acquaintance** (21%).

**Figure 1** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



## Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

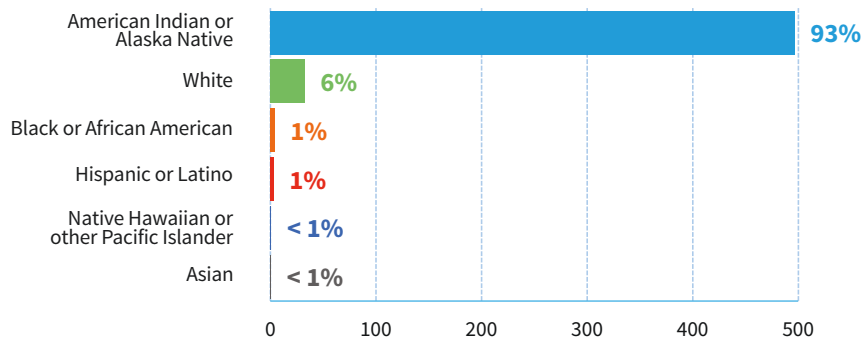
- Lack of child care;
- Services were inappropriate or inadequate for victims with substance abuse issues;
- Program was unable to provide services due to limited resources/priority setting;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Transportation; or
- Services were inappropriate or inadequate for victims with mental health issues.

## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

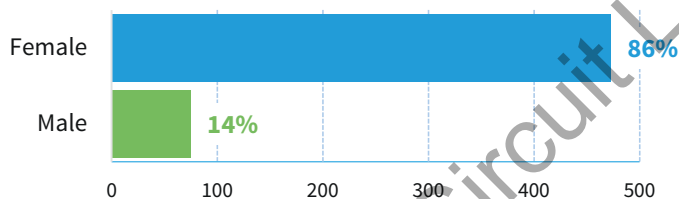
Grantees served or partially served an average of **555** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **American Indian and Alaska Native** (93%), **female** (86%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (43%).



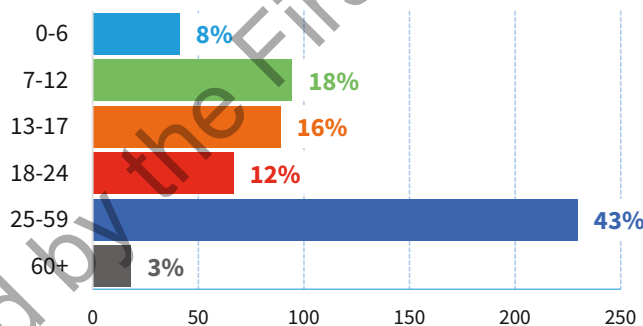
**Figure 2** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 4** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

T-SASP has allowed Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) to employ a child advocate dedicated to working solely with child sexual assault survivors and their families. Child advocacy centers are very limited within our jurisdiction and historically, domestic and sexual violence advocacy programs have focused services on meeting the needs of adult survivors. With this funding we have developed and implemented a needed position that allows advocacy services for children and families. This funding has provided emergency food and clothing, utility assistance, and even assistance with gas for families traveling to seek safety and attend court appearances. During one court preparation meeting with a local district attorney's office, the District Attorney encouraged a child to bring her favorite stuffed animal to carry with her on the stand during court testimony. This led the child advocate to seek OVV approval to purchase stuffed teddy bears that bear the message "You are Stronger than You Believe...Loved More Than You Know." The bears have been and will continue to be provided to child victims of sexual violence when meeting with the child advocate to provide a sense of safety and security.

**MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM**



**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The T-SASP funding allows the program to have an adequate number of trained advocates to meet the needs of our tribal community. The amount of domestic violence and sexual assault calls far outnumber any other township in Vilas county. This funding has allowed our program to build a sexual assault-specific program and hire a specialized sexual assault advocate, which the program did not have before. We are able to cross train all our advocates to respond to both DV and SA with nearly seamless 24-hour-a-day coverage.

**LAC DU FLAMBEAU DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SHELTER PROGRAM**

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 08/15/2022



### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

T-SASP funding allows the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma to help secondary victims. The program can help grandparents, boyfriends/girlfriends, and parents with this grant. Many times the program will provide services to a child only to find that the parent had also suffered sexual abuse in the past, and consequently lacks the tool set to provide the right support or any support to the child who may be victimized now. With this funding, we can provide services to a boyfriend who has seen his girlfriend raped and help him receive the services he needs to be a support system for his girlfriend. These are a few examples of how this program can and has helped individuals begin their healing process.

#### IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

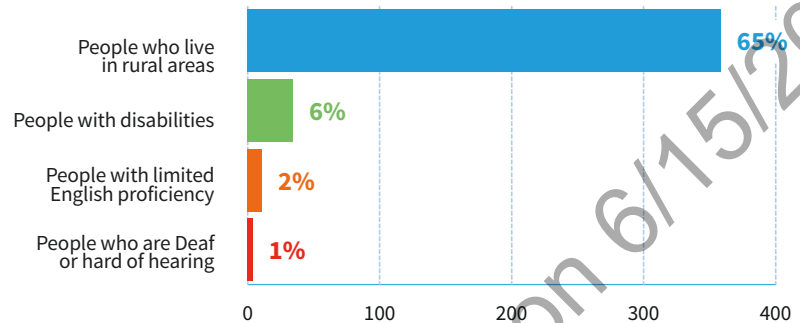


### Tribal • Grantee Perspective

During our TA site visit in May 2015 we had several discussions which led to a significant breakthrough on why our program may be struggling to achieve our original goals and why our numbers served have been significantly lower than expected. During this discussion the TA provider shared the history of children in Indian Country being sexually exploited, which appeared to resonate with Native women in the group discussion. They discussed how in many tribal communities sexual assault was almost considered to be a norm, with many parents feeling as if “it happened to me, it’s something that just happens and we deal with it.” Not to say that this is the attitude of all tribal members, nor that it is the norm of members of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. However, this conversation brought up many ideas about why individuals are not seeking or accepting services. In further discussions with staff we discussed why programs like our Fatherhood and Motherhood is Sacred are important for all parents. This can strengthen their knowledge on appropriate boundaries and the sacredness of themselves, their spouse/partner and their children. Other cultural programs that we have, such as Purpose of Life, for youth, help them to explore their purpose, the purpose of family, and the sacredness that exists. We would like the opportunity to continue to provide outreach, awareness, and education to the community as a way to reach survivors and their families and provide services.

#### PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE-SEWA UUSIM SYSTEM OF CARE

**Figure 5** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



## Secondary Victims

Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by sexual assault, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **261** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited a **need for more community education and outreach** in order to:

- Combat stigma associated with sexual violence;
- Encourage reporting of sexual assault;
- Increase awareness of available sexual assault services;
- Teach youth and adults about consent, healthy relationships, and how to respond to incidents of sexual assault; and
- Strengthen efforts toward increasing offender accountability.

Grantees stressed the importance of **holding offenders accountable**, through:

- Updating tribal legal code;
- Increased law enforcement presence on reservations;
- More arrest and prosecution; and
- Harsher sentencing.

Some grantees cited a need for more **ongoing support for victims**, including:

- Transportation;
- Legal services;
- SANE services;
- Emergency shelter and long-term housing; and
- Child care.

Grantees also frequently discussed the need for **culturally-sensitive mental health and substance abuse services** for child and adult victims of sexual assault



#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The most frustrating part of being a victim, for many of our clients, is the fact that so few of our offenders are arrested and tried for their crimes. The Troopers and local Police Department are often unable to get corroboration to back up the child's interview, so few cases are handed over to the District Attorney. Those that are often a case of "he said/she said" and the DA's office are unable to prosecute, knowing that a jury won't be able to find enough concrete evidence of wrongdoing. The members of the CAC and Behavioral Health can talk to the victims and tell them they are not to blame and are believed, but it's difficult for a child to believe that when their offender is still living in the same small village. For this same reason, protective orders are offered to each non-offending caregiver during their time at the CAC, but they are rarely accepted. Additionally, with the current budget cuts, the trooper travel budget has been slashed to emergency only, leaving the family feeling very isolated after the incident.

**KAWERAK, INC.**



#### **Tribal • Grantee Perspective**

The need for outpatient behavioral health therapy for Native American victims/survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse within the Sault Tribe's seven county service area remains critical as evidenced by the consistently high case load maintained by the T-SASP Clinical Social Worker (CSW). This high client case load is composed of residents of only one of the Tribe's seven county service area. In order to fully meet the therapeutic needs of Native American sexual assault and sexual abuse victims/survivors throughout the Sault Tribe's service area, an increase in the current levels of federal funding allocations to support the wage, fringe, and operational costs of additional CSW positions would reduce this ongoing critical need.

**SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 01/25/2022

Last viewed by the First Circuit Library on 6/15/2022

# Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations

The Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations (Underserved Program) funds projects to develop and implement outreach strategies and enhanced services to adult and youth victims of domestic/sexual violence in underserved populations.

**GRANTEES DO THIS BY BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF BOTH MAINSTREAM organizations and organizations specifically serving underserved populations to provide culturally appropriate and inclusive services; and increasing training and outreach activities of organizations providing services to underserved populations.**

## 31 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 31 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Underserved Program.

## 878 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 878 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 48% Served LGBT Victims

Nearly half (48%) of grantees served victims who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersex.

The Underserved Program responds to the needs of some underserved populations (i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) victims, the Deaf or hard of hearing community, and certain religious/ethnic minorities) that, prior to VAWA 2013, were included under the Culturally Specific Services Program (CSSP) and the Sexual Assault Services Program – Culturally Specific (SASP-CS).

*The term “underserved populations” means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate (Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013).*

*Service providers may be unprepared to offer sensitive and appropriate advocacy and shelter to LGBT victims of violence for a variety of reasons, such as limited capacity, fear of backlash, homophobia, and transphobia (Calton et al., 2016).*



#### WI • Grantee Perspective

The Underserved Program funding provides the programs we train with a foundation of understanding about the Deaf Community in general and affirms and dispels assumptions about Deaf people (e.g., whether we can lipread). This foundation also includes the historical trauma of the Deaf Community and how lifelong experiences of trauma manifest into barriers for Deaf victims trying to get help. We also train a program to respond and provide services to Deaf victims with an array of strategies that may increase a Deaf victim's safety and access to resources, services, and options. These trainings also give participants a new sense of ease in working with Deaf Unity, now that they have a new awareness of the Deaf Community, Deaf victims, and resources that we use. As a result of the trainings, programs will reach out to Deaf Unity when they have a Deaf victim at their door. They also contact us for technical assistance and problem solving. These trainings also give Deaf victims a face and voice by having the participants learn and appreciate the barriers, challenges, and lifelong experiences that they cannot fully fathom and handle by themselves without our collaboration.

DEAF UNITY, WISCONSIN

VAWA 2013 narrowed the scope of the CSSP and SASP-CS Programs to focus only on certain ethnic and racial minorities. To ensure continued support for underserved populations, Congress authorized the Underserved Program. Competitive awards were made for the first time in FY 2016. Former Abuse in Later Life Program grantees, former Disability Program grantees, and culturally specific organizations focusing on sexual assault are eligible to apply for these funds.

The Underserved Program enhances the safety of victims and their children by supporting community-based culturally specific projects to address and prevent domestic/sexual violence. Purpose areas include:

- Work with federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, agencies, and organizations to develop or enhance population specific services;
- Strengthen the capacity of underserved populations to provide population specific services;
- Strengthen the capacity of traditional victim service providers to provide population specific services;
- Strengthen the effectiveness of criminal and civil justice interventions by providing training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and other court personnel on domestic/sexual violence in underserved populations; and
- Work in cooperation with underserved populations to develop and implement outreach, education, prevention, and intervention strategies that highlight available resources and the specific issues faced by victims of domestic/sexual violence from these populations.

The Attorney General may use up to 25% of funds available under the Underserved Program to make one-time planning grants to eligible entities to support the planning and development of specially designed and targeted programs for adult and youth victims of domestic/sexual violence in one or more underserved populations.

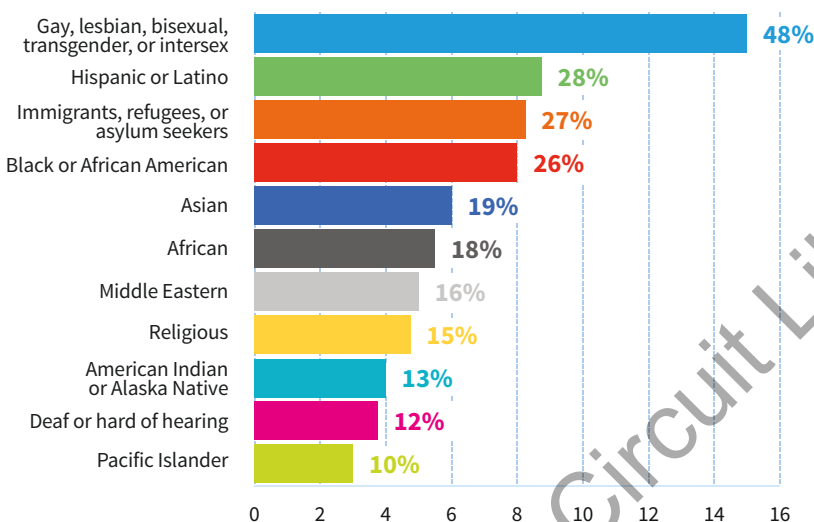
VAWA 2013 clarified that victim services and legal assistance include services and assistance to **victims of domestic/sexual violence who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.**

## General Grant Information

The Underserved Program was authorized by VAWA 2013. Information for this report was submitted by **31** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- Frequently (**48%**) grantees served victims who identified as LGBT.

**Figure 1** | Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2015–June 2017 (6-month average)



## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, advocacy, counseling, court and medical accompaniment, and community education to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **30** (97%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **26** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Underserved grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>26</b>	
Victim advocates	7	27%
Program coordinators	6	23%
Trainers	4	15%
Administrators	3	12%
Counselors	3	12%
Outreach workers	2	8%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).



### TX • Grantee Perspective

With program funding, we can reach a population that is underserved and, for lack of words, forgotten. The community we are serving is usually only Spanish-speaking and faces many barriers when seeking help and/or services. We have been able to contract a licensed counselor to provide individual counseling for victims/survivors that would have otherwise gone without any counseling. Some of the barriers that they are facing when seeking counseling are, lack of childcare, not being able to afford missing work, not being able to afford counseling sessions, not being able to travel to where services are available for fear of being stopped (many are undocumented), amongst an endless list of other circumstances. Through the funding we received, we are providing this utterly important service to a population that would have otherwise gone without it.

MHP SALUD, TEXAS



### NJ • Grantee Perspective

Program funding has allowed us the staffing necessary to do more extensive case management. For example, the idea of navigating our Superior Court System when filing for a restraining order is a daunting task in general, but for someone who uses a walker or cannot hear very well, it can be much more difficult. Without the support of a staff member going to court with that person and assisting them through the process, our clients can get frustrated or overwhelmed to the point of not going through with the restraining order process. In addition, the pressure our clients feel to “forgive” and not go through with the final order hearing our clients feel when the perpetrator is an adult child can be too much to bear. The funding provided through this grant allows our staff to provide court accompaniments and offer support through this very difficult time.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY



### OH • Grantee Perspective

The Undeserved Program funding has allowed BRAVO to expand and extend our service provider training and technical assistance programming. BRAVO's SafeZone Project represents the largest and most collaborative comprehensive training and technical assistance program we have undertaken, and the largest LGBTQI training program in the state. BRAVO has been able to build capacity and reach places in Ohio that we had yet to provide services. The funding provides the ability and opportunity to travel around Ohio reaching areas not otherwise reachable.

**BUCKEYE REGION ANTI-VIOLENCE ORGANIZATION, OHIO**



### NY • Grantee Perspective

Shalom Task Force (STF) made a major expansion in prevention education programs to Orthodox Jewish young adults and adults, including offering programs for Orthodox Jewish youth attending campuses of the City University of New York, partnering with several major synagogues in the New York area and other community groups, and offering programs to these new community audiences. Another innovative program that we started in mid-May was an internship program. Building on our success at piloting a small internship program last summer, the STF Women's Education Director selected four new interns for a 2016 summer internship program. They will be involved in a series of innovative programs through the end of the summer including the following: developing a young leadership initiative for high school students to be ambassadors for STF at their schools; making suggestions to update the STF Young Men's Relationship Education Curriculum and make it more appealing to youth; working on a social media plan and implementation; and planning new educational programs for parents and educators of young brides.

**SHALOM TASK FORCE, NEW YORK**

## Training

Grantees train victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, probation officers, child protection staff, mental health and other professionals how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **24** (77%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **470** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **10,369** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**26%**), law enforcement officers (**20%**), health professionals (**7%**), and educators (**7%**).

## Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide general information to the community to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.<sup>i</sup>**

- **24** (77%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **615** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **39,009** people.

**Table 2** | People educated with Underserved grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

People educated	1-year total	
<b>Total people educated</b>	<b>39,009</b>	
Victims	<b>16,955</b>	<b>43%</b>
Community members	<b>7,012</b>	<b>18%</b>
Middle/high school students	<b>4,525</b>	<b>12%</b>
University/college students	<b>4,350</b>	<b>11%</b>

**NOTE:** Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only ( $\geq 5\%$ ).

<sup>i</sup> Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables a professional to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system



## Victim Services

Underserved victims of domestic/sexual violence may face unique barriers to seeking and utilizing assistance. Supporting these victims with a wide range of services may include providing advocacy and support to a victim who is seeking a protection order; accompaniment during medical procedures, such as a sexual assault forensic examination; providing interpretation or translation services; assistance with safety planning; accompaniment to court; shelter and transitional housing assistance; or immigration assistance. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **24** (77%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **878** victims during each 6-month period.
- Nearly **100%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

### During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Support group/counseling services to **597** victims;
- Victim advocacy services to **536** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **351** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **242** victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **138** victims;
- Language services (i.e. interpretation or translation) to **104** victims; and
- Transportation services to **94** victims.

### Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **299** times; and
  - Grantees used English, Spanish, and American Sign Language (ASL) for these activities.
- Grantees received a total of **4,436** hotline calls;
  - The majority of these calls (**53%**) came from victims; and
  - Grantees used English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, Yiddish, and ASL when responding to these requests for information or assistance.

## Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (76%).



### NM • Grantee Perspective

Services for Spanish-speaking survivors of SA have been minimal and might not exist in Albuquerque without this funding. We have begun to provide more comprehensive services and have a program for Spanish-speaking immigrant SA survivors backed by Spanish-speaking immigrant community members. This has not been done before in central New Mexico and this funding is a force behind our work. Services for Spanish-speaking sexual assault victims/survivors in Albuquerque and surrounding counties have grown immensely with this grant. Other than Casa Fortaleza, there were no therapy services in Spanish specifically geared to victims. Now CF has a therapist and a Clinical Director providing therapy services and has been able to provide therapy for even more survivors.

**ENLACE COMUNITARIO/CASA FORTALEZA, NEW MEXICO**



### NJ • Grantee Perspective

The resources supported by this grant allowed our client to begin free individual therapy, case management, and vocational counseling. Our director spoke to the local Orthodox Jewish school to urge them to accept her children into their school. The school administrator resisted because he found the husband so impossible to deal with. Only because we have a strong and ongoing relationship with the rabbinic administrator were we able to explain to him the situation. The therapist was able to shift the principal's mindset from judgmental to compassionate and he made space in his building for our client's children. Our school psychologist evaluated the children and created appropriate educational plans. The children are in therapy to help undo the damage of witnessing the psychological torture of their mother. Recently, our client has also benefited from our pro bono legal service when she met with an Orthodox Jewish family attorney whom she found very helpful and empathetic. Without grant funding, we would not have been able to assist her and her children in shifting their lives from one of continued abuse to hope and promise in the future.

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AND CHILDREN'S CENTER OF CLIFTON-PASSAIC INC., NEW JERSEY**



**WA • Grantee Perspective**

This funding is a critical source of support for our advocacy work in LGBTQ communities. It has allowed us to continue to offer meaningful support to LGBTQ survivors of sexual violence in our community. During this reporting period, funds enabled us to offer a culturally relevant sexual assault specific support group via Thriving While Healing. The support group has had a tremendous impact on our community and fills a critical community need for support and connection among LGBTQ survivors of sexual violence. [Funds have also allowed us to] maintain our capacity to respond to diverse LGBTQ Latinx survivors by having two Spanish/English Bilingual and Bicultural Community Advocates on staff.

**NW NETWORK OF BI, TRANS, LESBIAN AND GAY SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, WASHINGTON**



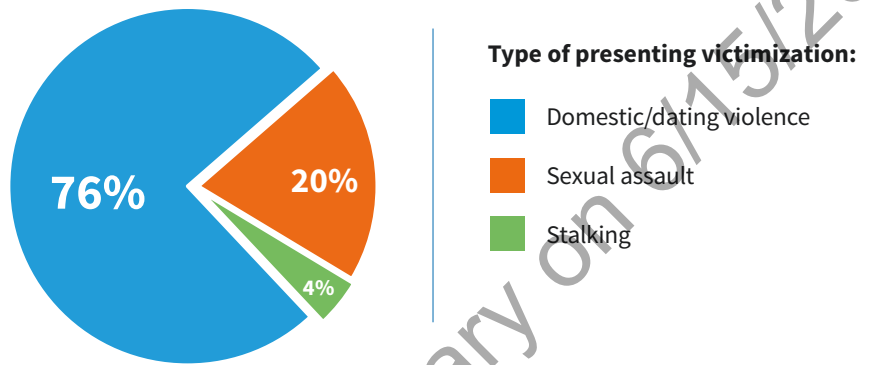
**NY • Grantee Perspective**

[One of our clients] identifies as a Latinx cisgender man who was living without status after emigrating. When A first called AVP, he was in crisis, having been physically attacked and illegally thrown out of his apartment by his abusive husband. A had no family support, because they lived in another country, but he was fortunate enough to stay with a friend. As part of his healing and recovery process, we were able to refer him to our Legal program, where he received extensive legal services, funded through our LAV grant, beginning with support to obtain a family order protection, to feel safe from his stalking ex-partner. AVP is representing A in his divorce case and we referred him to an outside attorney who took on his immigration case. AVP also worked with A around his health, specifically to help him get tested for HIV, as he was unaware of his status and frightened. His AVP counselor accompanied him to a community health center. A tested positive for HIV, and his counselor offered immediate crisis intervention and support for A and his new diagnosis, as well as connecting him with immediate treatment. In his work with AVP, A has demonstrated tremendous growth in counseling.

**NEW YORK CITY GAY AND LESBIAN ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT, NEW YORK**

**Figure 2** Provision of victim services by Underserved Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

**Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**Table 3** Victims seeking services with Underserved grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total victims seeking services</b>	<b>878</b>	
Victims served	874	99%
Victims partially served	5	1%
Victims not served	0	0%

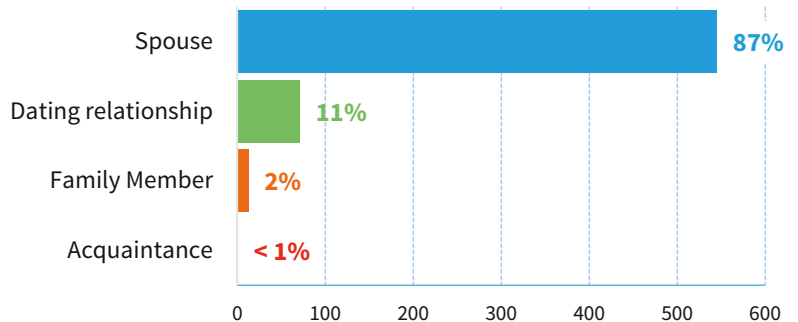
**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Underserved Program grant. "Not served" represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Underserved Program grant.

**Victims' Relationship to Offender**

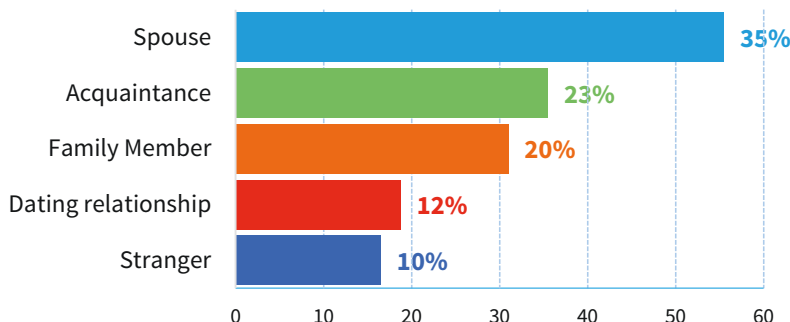
Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (76%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (12%), by an **acquaintance** (5%), or by a **family or household member** (5%).

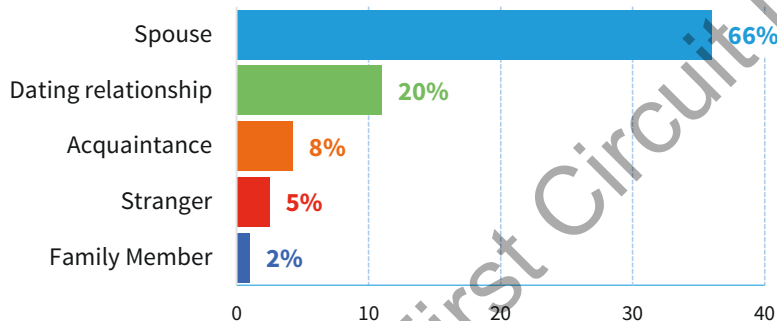
**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: Domestic/dating violence (6-month average)



**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



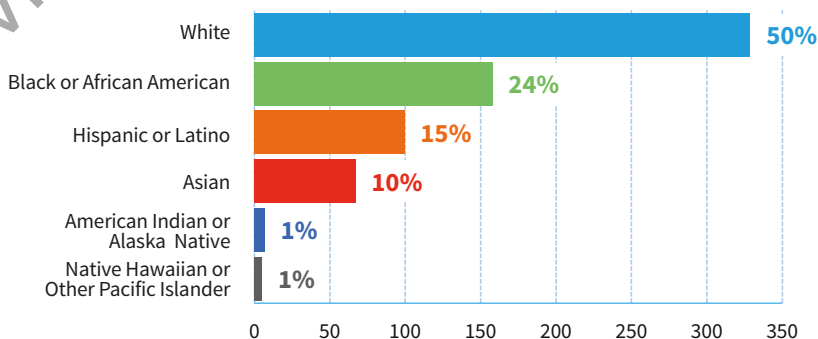
**Figure 5** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking** (6-month average)



## Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **878** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (50%), **female** (86%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (63%).

**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



### VT • Grantee Perspective

Primarily, this funding allows us to provide training that will enhance the ability of Vermont sexual violence assistance agencies to serve the LGBTQ and migrant worker community in a manner that addresses the lack of culturally competent services. The training we offer removes one of the most important barriers to services and that is a bias against and misunderstanding of LGBTQ people and the migrant worker community. Additionally, we are able to help service providers address issues and situations that may make LGBTQ and migrant worker clients distrustful or suspicious.

PRIDE CENTER OF VERMONT



### VA • Grantee Perspective

Funding has allowed advocates to expand connections in diverse communities. The community advocates that have been on-boarded connect Virginia Anti-Violence Project (VAVP) to a much broader range of LGBTQ community members, because they are representatives of diverse communities and already had natural connections and collaborative relationships to add to the organization. Particularly, one staff member's deep ties to Nationz Foundation (as its founder) has allowed VAVP to foster a deep and genuine relationship with a grassroots organization that does specific work for and by trans women of color, LGBTQ people of color, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Institutionally lifting up the leadership of trans women of color, through funding of the community advocate position and institutionalizing continued and deep listening to the needs of those communities, has created a community connection that enriches and adds nuance to VAVP's work. In addition, funding an individual who identifies as a young gender fluid advocate of color has allowed for increased connections to diverse youth LGBTQ communities, in particular to create space for intensive collaboration with Side by Side (formerly ROSMY), an organization that specifically serves LGBTQ youth.

VIRGINIA ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT



**IL • Grantee Perspective**

Most importantly, these funds have allowed us to continue a growing program in the Orthodox community that raises awareness and understanding of DV and the resources and help that SHALVA can provide. This program was initially funded with our first OVW grant. We have been able to increase our programming in the Orthodox community to cover community members, personal care professionals, educators, mental health professionals and clergy. It allows us to continue our Orthodox Rabbinic task force so that Orthodox women who are afraid to call SHALVA or feel they need rabbinic approval will receive appropriate guidance and support. If a Rabbi suggests SHALVA, an Orthodox women is more likely to come to SHALVA for counseling. SHALVA would not have the capacity for our Orthodox initiative without OVW funds. We we would not be able to meet the current demand for DV counseling services in the Jewish community, including covering the need for evening hours. The grant has also helped our clients receive food, clothing and medical assistance through our MOU with the Ark.

**SHALVA, INC., ILLINOIS**

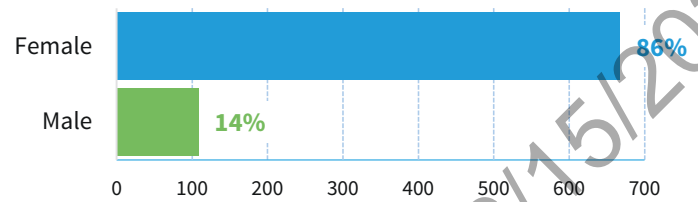


**NY • Grantee Perspective**

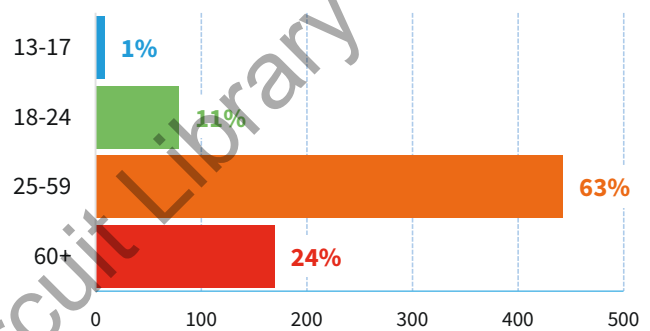
Underserved Populations funding allows In Our Own Voices (IOOV) the opportunity to continue on as the only LGBT organization that provides culturally specific crime victim services to a population that continues to be marginalized and encounter extreme challenges and barriers not only due to their victimization, but due to societal bias which includes individual and institutional cultures that present additional challenges and barriers to safety and support. Prior to receiving the funding, IOOV's reach and capacity to provide comprehensive programs/ services was extremely limited. The funding allows for individual-, group-, and community-level outreach, advocacy, and support and for IOOV to make both individual and systems level changes.

**IN OUR OWN VOICES, INC., NEW YORK**

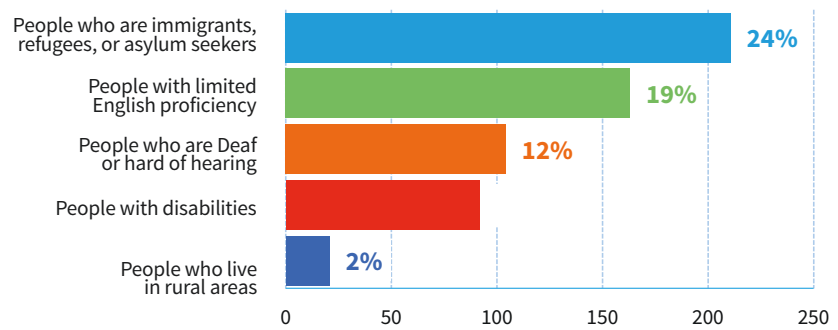
**Figure 7** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)



**Figure 9** | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



**Secondary Victims**

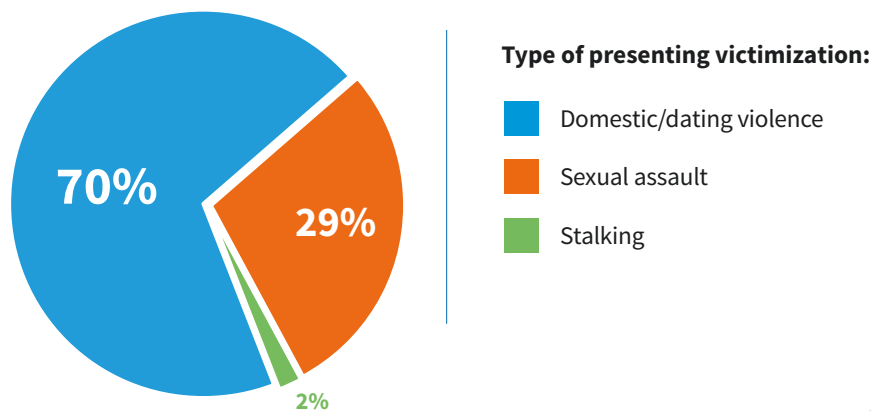
Secondary victims are individuals who are indirectly affected by domestic/ sexual violence, including children, siblings, spouses or intimate partners, parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **78** secondary victims during each 6-month period.

**Figure 10**

Provision of services to secondary victims by Underserved Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Secondary victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **access to culturally and linguistically competent victim services** as their biggest area of unmet need. They noted that **mainstream victim service providers sometimes struggled to properly meet the needs of underserved groups** due to:

- A lack of training in cultural sensitivity and working with marginalized groups;
- Insufficient understanding of VAWA 2013 rules regarding access and accommodations for underserved groups;
- Individual biases and institutional discrimination against people from marginalized communities;
- Victims' fear of accessing services due to the threat of deportation, legal action, or hostility; and
- Insufficient coordination between social justice organizations and victim services providers.

Grantees highlighted the need to **help victims achieve self-sufficiency** through the provision of:

- Housing;
- Trauma-informed and culturally specific mental healthcare; and
- Legal services.



### VA • Grantee Perspective

In the work of Virginia Anti-Violence Project (VAVP), the need to develop infrastructure, partnerships, and communities that are not siloed into traditional fields of service provision has become more and more apparent. We are stronger together. Particularly, the lack of funding and support that LGBTQ survivors of violence who are also people of color, especially black/African American survivors, means that much of VAVP's work involves making connections where none may have been before. It is hard work and is particularly frustrating when organizations that have had established funding and support, who do not center the most marginalized communities, often do additional harm to individuals seeking services because they do not know the needs particular to the communities that VAVP serves. Especially in parts of Virginia that are rural and especially starved of any resources, accessing affirming, holistic care is an impossibility. Continued work needs to be done to shift resources into organizations that are rooted in mutual collaboration, rooted in on-the-ground communities, and rooted in regions that are particularly isolated.

VIRGINIA ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT



### IL • Grantee Perspective

A significant need of LGBTQ survivors is medical and mental health providers with competencies around sexual orientation and gender identity. This is an exceptional need for transgender and gender nonconforming patients. In our experience, even after cultural competency trainings and continuing education, providers' ability and skills to serve LGBTQ survivors is still significantly lacking. Access to queer identified or queer competent providers is necessary. Specific to mental health, a list of providers who specialize in LGBTQ needs and trauma and also operate on a sliding scale would be helpful.

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH, ILLINOIS



### MA • Grantee Perspective

There is still a need to think collectively and critically through what transformative justice for victims and for perpetrators of abuse might look like, beyond the prison system which is punitive and ineffective at preventing partner abuse/intimate partner violence. This includes learning about and exploring models of restorative justice approaches to interpersonal harm and the use of indigenous circle processes and models in domestic violence programs to develop more egalitarian, non-hierarchical ways of doing the work that center victims'/survivors' voices.

FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, MASSACHUSETTS

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# Formerly Authorized Programs

The data presented in this chapter reflect programs previously authorized under earlier iterations of VAWA. The Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies (Consolidated Youth or CY Program) supports activities and purpose areas that were previously funded under four formerly authorized programs detailed in this chapter. Additionally, VAWA 2013 consolidated two formerly authorized programs into the Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (Justice for Families or JFF Program).<sup>i</sup> Awards are no longer being made under any of the six formerly authorized programs outlined here.

## Formerly authorized programs displayed in this chapter include:

- Grants to Assist Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (CEV Program);
- Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (EMY Program);
- Services, Training, Education and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program (STEP Program);
- Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Program (Youth Services Program);
- Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program); and
- Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program (Supervised Visitation Program).

<sup>i</sup> Justice for Families was authorized by VAWA 2013 in March of 2013, and Congress appropriated funds for this new program. However, OWW had already accepted applications under the former Supervised Visitation and Courts programs for FY 2014 funding, so FY 2014 Justice for Families awards were made to applicants that had applied under the two programs' solicitations.

The Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies (Consolidated Youth or CY Program) consolidated the purpose areas from four previously authorized programs:

- **Grants to Assist Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (CEV Program)**; the last grants made under the CEV Program were awarded in fiscal year 2011.
- **Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (EMY Program)**; the last grants made under the EMY Program were awarded in fiscal year 2011.
- **Services, Training, Education and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program (STEP Program)**; the last grants made under the STEP Program were awarded in fiscal year 2011.
- **Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Program (Youth Services Program)**; the last grants made under the Youth Services Program were awarded in fiscal year 2011.

The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (Justice for Families or JFF Program) consolidated two pre-existing VAWA-funded programs:

- **Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program)**; the last grants made under the Courts program were awarded in fiscal year 2013.
- **Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program (Supervised Visitation Program)**; the last grants made under the Supervised Visitation Program were awarded in fiscal year 2014.

Because these programs were phasing out and no additional awards have been made in recent years, no data on grant-funded activities of these formerly authorized programs are presented, and instead the total number of grantees reporting for each program in the 6-month reporting periods, between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, are portrayed. With such a small grantee pool, data on activities conducted are sparse. The one exception is Supervised Visitation, with more than ten grantees reporting every period between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017. Therefore, a few tables presenting Supervised Visitation grantees' primary activities are presented. For a written description of the types of activities conducted by Supervised Visitation grantees, please refer to the Justice for Families Program chapter, which contains all of the same types of activities, in addition to activities added upon the creation of the new Justice for Families grant program. For an in-depth look at the previously authorized programs, please see the 2016 Attorney General's Biennial Report to Congress.



**Table 1** | Number of grantees reporting by program in each 6-month reporting period:  
**Formerly Authorized Programs**

Grant program	Reporting period			
	July - December 2015	January - June 2016	July - December 2016	January - June 2017
CEV	0	0	0	0
EMY	7	1	0	0
STEP	7	4	3	0
Youth Services	4	1	0	0
Courts	10	4	3	2
Supervised Visitation	47	31	27	18

## Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program

The Supervised Visitation Program was designed to fund the supervised visitation and safe exchanges of children—by and between parents—in situations involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, child abuse, or stalking. The goals of the program were to ensure the safety of adult victims and their children during supervised visits and exchanges; protect children from the trauma of witnessing domestic or dating violence; and reduce the risk of further abuse, injury, or abduction of the children during supervised visits and monitored exchanges.

**Table 1** | Staff supported with Supervised Visitation grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:  
**Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>67</b>	
Supervision staff	30	45%
Program coordinators	15	22%
Administrators	9	13%
Security staff (including court security)	7	10%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

**Table 2** Families seeking services with Supervised Visitation grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Families seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total families seeking services</b>	<b>1,036</b>	
Families served	969	93%
Families partially served	9	1%
Families not served	59	6%

**NOTE:** "Partially served" represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Supervised Visitation Program grant. "Not served" represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Supervised Visitation Program grant.

**Table 3** Services provided to families supported with Supervised Visitation grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Service	Number of families (6-month average)	Times provided (2-year total)
One-to-one supervised visits	707	43,852
Supervised exchanges	265	15,952
Group supervised visits	17	422

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## Research & Evaluation Initiative

The Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative<sup>1</sup> is designed to study and evaluate approaches to combatting domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. By generating more knowledge about strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable, communities that benefit from VAWA funding will be better equipped to align their work with practices that are known to be effective, and they will be more capable of generating empirical knowledge on the efficacy of new and promising ways of doing things. R&E prioritizes researcher-practitioner partnerships and rigorous methods for investigating if and how VAWA-funded strategies help keep communities safe and promote justice.

### 15 R&E Grants totaling over \$5.2 million

During the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years a total of 15 R&E grants totaling over \$5.2 million were awarded.

The projects range in duration from 12 to 36 months, and final reports on methods and findings will be available at the conclusion of each study.

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Projects currently funded through R&E are:

- An evaluation of the culturally specific mechanisms and services of a Latina victim services organization, with a focus on Latina survivors' self-defined goals and needs and the extent to which the program's services meet those needs.
- A study to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of an approach to implementing cognitive processing therapy (CPT) to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in 15 rape crisis centers.
- A process and outcome evaluation of a trauma-informed, peer-supported transitional housing program for domestic violence victims with co-occurring substance use disorders.
- An evaluation of the therapeutic and self-sufficiency benefits of a therapeutic horticulture farm program for residents at a domestic violence shelter and following their shelter stay.
- An examination of the trajectories of violence and victimization in the lives of women offenders, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of an inmate-led program designed to reduce the occurrence of violence and victimization in their lives.
- A study to identify patterns and disparities in court-related experiences among litigants from cultural and linguistic minority groups through analysis of court system data.
- An evaluation of a training curriculum for all sworn officers in a large police department, designed to improve the law enforcement response to domestic and sexual violence.
- A survey of programs using restorative justice to address domestic violence.
- A mixed-methods study of domestic and sexual violence experiences, service needs, and help-seeking among refugees, asylum-seekers, and other vulnerable new-immigrant women.
- A randomized controlled trial comparing two batterer intervention programs (BIPs): the Duluth Model and the Achieving Change Through Value-based Behavior (ACTV) model.
- An exploration of the short- and longer-term outcomes of a VAWA-funded Transitional Housing program. It will assess whether transitional housing is a useful strategy for domestic violence survivors to obtain safety, housing stability, and economic stability and well-being over time.
- An evaluation of the impact of a cross-system, cooperative mandatory reporting response to adolescent sexual assault survivors in one jurisdiction in which policy requires that all cases involving victims under age 18 are reported to law enforcement.

- A descriptive study to explore and document how forensic compliance, meaning compliance with a VAWA funding condition that requires that sexual assault victims be given medical forensic exams free of charge and regardless of whether they choose to report the assault to law enforcement, is currently implemented in two jurisdictions.
- A national survey of judicial involvement in coordinated community response (CCR) models addressing intimate partner violence.
- A mixed-method evaluation of a domestic and sexual abuse prevention program designed to help people with moderate to severe intellectual and/or developmental disabilities distinguish between healthy and unhealthy relationships and know what to do when confronted with an unhealthy situation.

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# 2018

## 2018 Biennial Report

The 2018 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of  
Grant Programs Under the Violence Against Women Act