

Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program

The Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Engaging Men and Youth or EMY Program) funds projects that develop or enhance efforts to engage men and youth in preventing crimes of violence against women with the goal of developing mutually respectful, nonviolent relationships.

THE CONSOLIDATED GRANT PROGRAM TO ADDRESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Youth as Allies (Consolidated Youth or CY Program) has received appropriations in FYs 2013 through 2016. This program, which consolidated four programs previously authorized under earlier iterations of VAWA, including the EMY Program, funds projects that support child, youth, and young adult victims through direct services, training, coordination and collaboration, effective intervention, treatment, response, and prevention strategies. The last grants made under the EMY Program were awarded in FY 2011.

31 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015, 31 unique grantees reported activities funded by the EMY Program.

3,654 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 3,654 people.

47,860 People Reached

Grantees reached a total of 47,860 people through community-wide events.

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.⁴¹⁹



FL • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed Martha's House staff to build capacity on community engagement, including providing prevention on the outer layers of the social ecology model in their community and society. The community meetings, possible because of this funding, have benefited both the individuals participating as well as the community of Okeechobee. Because of this project Okeechobee is transforming into a community that encourages safe bystander intervention. Implementing the social marketing campaigns in conjunction with the mentoring project will integrate safe, healthy relationship standards throughout the community.

FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



MO • Grantee Perspective

The results of the Outreach Program's efforts have prompted greater interest in domestic violence and sexual assault prevention in our community as a whole. True North, for example, was able to facilitate a Men As Allies breakfast in April of 2015 with local celebrities and political figures declaring their stance against violence against women, as a direct result of some of the awareness and prevention activities provided by the agency's outreach team throughout the funding period. The Men As Allies group has now become a solid committee and worked, even after the project's completion, to promote male participation in awareness and education efforts by hosting an "Extreme Challenge" at Venture Out, a University of Missouri-based ropes course. The event promoted domestic violence and sexual assault awareness and invited boys' athletic teams, civic groups, families, etc., to participate by physically challenging themselves and others, and to learn about violence prevention through video PSAs created by student athletes and the Columbia Public School system.

TRUE NORTH OF COLUMBIA, INC., MISSOURI



MS • Grantee Perspective

The EMY grant has allowed the program to hire staff and ensure the planning and development of the public awareness campaign. This funding will allow the program to create an overall public service announcement with men speaking out about the violence. More community mobilization to recruit and train men and boys has been realized with the funding. Without the funding, this level of community involvement featuring men would be virtually impossible.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC., MISSISSIPPI

Grantees encourage children and youth to pursue nonviolent relationships and reduce their risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of physical and/or sexual violence. They do this by creating public education campaigns and assisting in community organizing efforts encouraging men and boys to work as allies to prevent physical and/or sexual violence.

These efforts may include the following:

- Strategic radio public service announcements and print materials;
- Online resources that include relevant violence prevention information;
- Activities that engage men as leaders; and
- Activities that highlight violence against women prevention messages.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **31** individual grantees for the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 progress reporting period.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training and public education, acting as community organizers to engage men and youth in preventing physical and/or sexual violence through leadership trainings, public forums, and awareness campaigns. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **31** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **23** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators, administrators, and educators/trainers.

Table 1 | Staff supported with EMY grant funds, July 2013–June 2015: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	23	
Program coordinators	9	40%
Administrators	4	18%
Educators/trainers	4	18%
Support staff	2	9%
Community organizers	2	8%

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

Training

Grantees provide training to social service and healthcare professionals, educators, athletic organization staff, youth program staff, and other professionals on the burden and impact of domestic/sexual violence, and the ways men and boys can work as allies to address and redress these crimes.

This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.

- **20** (65%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **202** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **3,654** people.
- Most often these trainings reached social service organization staff (**15%**), health and mental health professionals (**9%**), and domestic violence program staff (**8%**).

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.

- **26** (84%) 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 **481** community-wide events.
- Grantees reached a total of **47,860** people at community-wide events.
 - Grantees most frequently hosted school presentations (**41%**), information tables (**18%**), culturally specific events (**17%**), and public forums (**11%**).

Ongoing Community Organizing Activities

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

- Grantees provided **287** ongoing community organizing activities.
 - The most common types of ongoing activities provided were educational courses (**43%**) and leadership/mentorship trainings (**23%**).
- Grantees provided these ongoing activities to **27,800** men and youth.
 - Grantees most frequently reached elementary, middle, high school, and university students (**41%**); culturally specific community group members, both youth and adults (**17%**); and unaffiliated adult community members (**15%**), through these ongoing activities.



DC • Grantee Perspective

After surveying the Men of Code [high school] seniors at the end of the 3-year program and grant, we found that 92% of the seniors believed that Men of Code has had a positive impact on their lives and 100% of the seniors believed that what they learned in the program will influence their future behavior. Eighty-five percent of the seniors do believe in bystander intervention and stated they would step in to intervene in an abusive situation if it was safe to do so. Ninety-two percent of the seniors believe it is their responsibility as a man and as an athlete to be a leader in preventing sexual assault. Over 85% of the seniors feel comfortable addressing the topics of healthy relationships, sexual violence, power and control, masculinity and leadership, and believed that Men of Code clearly explained these topics.

BECKY LEE WOMEN'S SUPPORT FUND, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



TX • Grantee Perspective

Funding has allowed MCN to train and offer technical assistance to organizations seeking information on working with Latino migrant men in sexual/domestic violence. We have been able to offer resources and training to over 90 organizations on how to interact with and engage Latino migrant men in their communities.

MIGRANT CLINICIANS NETWORK, TEXAS



DC • Grantee Perspective

With our audience of young men, we realized how important it is to remain in constant communication with these young men as they are constantly bombarded with different things taking up their attention, whether it is personal, for school, or for family. Thus, we worked hard to stay in contact with the coaches and the boys through more workshops, more contact, and more follow-up. We worked to create stronger mentoring relationships with the boys, and did see more boys reaching out to their mentors outside of school hours and asking for support in areas such as dating and life after graduation. We saw that when discussing certain current affairs issues such as Jameis Winston and rape, the boys still had questions regarding consent as well as accountability. The boys additionally still struggle with the idea of intervention versus snitching.

BECKY LEE WOMEN'S SUPPORT FUND, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



MN • Grantee Perspective

As far as we are aware, the BeMore Campaign is the only ongoing domestic/dating violence prevention campaign in Minnesota engaging African American men, young men, and boys. Our approach is holistic, and engages African American men, young men, and boys in understanding what healthy relationships really look like, and in uncovering and addressing the role that personal/familial and historical trauma play in perpetuating unhealthy and violent behaviors in men. This grant-funded initiative is making a difference in our community. For example, a number of the probation officers assigned to young men we have engaged have described how the young men's attitudes are changing: they are becoming better listeners, less reactive, and more thoughtful. Probation officers see these as signs that our interventions are working.

THE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP, MINNESOTA



CA • Grantee Perspective

During our conversations with community members, the notion people should not "air dirty laundry" and that what happens within the confines of an intimate or familial relationship "is their business" often arises. These notions contribute to the silence around intimate partner and family violence, and the discomfort with public acknowledgement of this phenomenon within our communities. It seems that this issue needs a salient face or spokesperson that can infiltrate the community consciousness and truly bring this issue out of the shadows, initiate meaningful community discourse, and build momentum toward cultural norm change.

INTERVAL HOUSE, CALIFORNIA



MA • Grantee Perspective

There is a dearth in services that can be provided for teen batterers. Men that get remanded to batterer intervention programs later in life many times started as perpetrators in unhealthy and abusive relationships as teens. If we want to do true prevention we also need to have a program that serves to support and engage young men who are abusive.

BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION,
MASSACHUSETTS

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.

- **22** (71%) grantees used funds for public education/awareness campaigns.
- Grantees provided a total of **271** public education/awareness campaigns.
- Grantees most frequently supported print materials (**17%**), web-based videos (**15%**), billboards (**14%**), online social media (**14%**), and radio advertisements (**14%**).

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees most frequently cited the need for **more consistent awareness and prevention programming**, including **bystander intervention training**, in order to effectively reach young men.

Grantees felt that having **consistent and sustainable sources of funding** would help in these efforts.

Many grantees reported a need to **combat community taboos against reporting** domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as **tendencies to blame victims**.

Grantees also reported a need for **improved services for teen offenders**.

Finally, some grantees identified a number of **basic needs for young victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking**, including:

- Emergency shelter and affordable permanent housing;
- Transportation;
- Child care, and
- Employment.