

# Examples of Grantee Narrative Data

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## Example Grantee Narratives by Program

### Abuse in Later Life Program

*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.*

### Campus Program

*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. Additionally, the grant-funded investigator has created greater collaboration between the University Police and the campus Title IX office. This, in conjunction with the creation of the case management team, has greatly improved campus response abilities to ensure that victims are offered resources, and cases are adequately responded to and addressed in a timely manner.*

### Culturally Specific Services Program

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.

## Consolidated Youth Program

*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 OVW-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.*

## Disability Program

*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.*

## Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR)

*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.*

## Justice for Families Program

*Justice for Families Program funding has enabled the Court to meet the significant need for no-cost supervised visitation services that are safe and appropriate for low-income families affected by DV in Santa Clara County. To the Court's knowledge, there is currently no provider in the county who provides no cost or low cost supervised visitation services, forcing these families to pay the market rate of approximately \$75.00 to \$150.00 per hour, which is not realistic for many low-income families. The Justice for Families Project funding has enabled the Court to enter into a new subcontract with Choices for Children as a Justice for Families grant partner. Over the reporting period, the Court was able to negotiate the subcontract, prepare an on-site secure facility at the Family Justice Center Courthouse, and create a policies and procedures manual to*

*ensure services will be delivered in line with the Guiding Principles of supervised visitation. Through this partnership, families impacted by DV as referred by the Court will be able to participate in free, professional SV provided in a safe, secure facility by culturally sensitive, well-trained staff.*

### Legal Assistance for Victims Program

*This grant continues to be a critical source of support for Pisgah Legal Services' Mountain Violence Prevention Project (MVPP), which is the primary resource for free legal assistance for low-income victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in a six-county area of rural, mountainous Western North Carolina. With LAV funding, MVPP has assisted some of our region's most disadvantaged citizens who are suffering from domestic violence and who lack the financial resources to hire the necessary legal representation to stop the abuse, protect their children and begin to rebuild their lives independently of the abuser. Without LAV funding, we would not have been able to sustain the number of victims served, including the rapidly-growing population of battered immigrants. With no bilingual staff or court advocates at five of the seven domestic violence and sexual assault agencies serving our six primary counties, Spanish-speaking victims of violence would have an even harder time accessing justice without Pisgah Legal Services' bilingual court advocate, which is partially funded by LAV.*

### Rural Program

*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.*

### Sexual Assault Services Program – Culturally Specific (SASP-CS)

*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 will not have access to these services. It enables Consejo SAP staff the opportunity 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 SA survivors.*

### State Coalitions Program

*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.*

### **Tribal Governments Program**

*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.*

### **Technical Assistance Program**

*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.*

### **Tribal Coalitions Program**

*We have been able to provide the Native-specific 40-hour Sexual Assault Advocacy Training to nearly 40 women, both Native and non-Native. It is extremely important to have non-Native advocates and service providers participate in a culturally specific sexual assault advocacy training because Native women have consistently expressed that it can be difficult accessing services when the providers are unfamiliar with Native culture. Tribal Coalitions funding allows us to expand the amount of 40-hour trainings we are able to offer.*

### **Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (T-SASP)**

*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 up 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.*

### Transitional Housing Program

*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 term of assistance with raising her small children and overcoming her struggles with substance abuse.*

### Underserved Program

*As a result of the OVW funding, we have put together a dynamic team to serve the Deaf community. Our OVW funding allows us to outreach to, 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 which our survivors face. Without the OVW 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-on-one counseling, advocacy, or join our community education programs. Since there are less than 20 Deaf DV/SA programs in the United States, there is a high demand for culturally competent services.*

### STOP Formula

*The STOP Program funding has made it possible for the Las Vegas Justice Court to retain its Domestic Violence Court Compliance Officer. This in turn has substantially increased the likelihood that offenders will actually complete their required counseling due to the on-going monitoring of enrollment and attendance, as well as the effective and timely imposition of sanctions. This is important because without counseling, many offenders will simply rotate in and out of Clark County Detention Center never addressing the underlying issues involved in domestic violence and some may eventually escalate their violence to the felony level and, in some cases, it will result in homicides.*

### SASP Formula

*Many grants limit who can receive services to a particular age range, type of perpetrator, etc. SASP funding allows Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) to provide comprehensive, wrap around, holistic legal services to all survivors. This is particularly true for victims of child sex abuse. SALI's funding to provide legal services to these victims is often restricted to only providing emergency legal services or services in the criminal justice system. SASP funding has allowed SALI to provide a holistic legal response to these victims, and this year SALI served 40 victims under the age of 18 and several more who were under 18 when they began receiving services from SALI. Using SASP funding, SALI is able to serve both adults and children whether*

*they are survivors of intimate partner violence, child sexual abuse, or assault by a stranger or acquaintance.*



## Example Uses of Grantee Narrative Data

- Frequent, cross-program identification of legal services as an area of unmet need influenced the inclusion—through the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)—of civil legal services as a purpose area for some programs that previously did not allow funds to be used for legal services.
- In response to information requests from Justice Department leadership, OVW provided examples of how grantees have addressed sex trafficking in their communities. The examples OVW passed along reflect the complexities of serving trafficked victims, describing how an attorney helped a client navigate her legal troubles, and how an advocate helped another young woman budget for groceries and access job training.
- A description of how OVW funds supported the prosecution of Larry Nassar—the former doctor for USA Gymnastics who sexually abused hundreds of women and girls—was mentioned by the OVW Acting Director in her March 2018 [testimony](#) before the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- OVW staff are beginning an analysis of grantees’ accounts of what they find helpful from OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance (TA), as well as their training and TA needs, to inform future years’ grantmaking under the Technical Assistance Initiative.
- OVW drew from tribal grantees’ accounts of providing culturally specific services and facilitating traditional ways of healing to offer the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examples of these services and their value in Native communities. This information was provided to GAO as it was preparing a [2017 report](#) on sex trafficking in Indian country.
- OVW grant managers read narrative data to gain a deeper understanding of grantees’ projects, spot technical assistance needs, identify promising practices, and discern if grantees are aligning their work with what they proposed in their applications for funding.
  - OVW has followed up with grantees who were funded to focus on serving sexual assault survivors, but whose numbers and narrative suggest resources are being used mainly to address domestic violence.
  - A grantee reported that victims are required to meet with an advocate and watch a video to educate them about domestic violence before they can access OVW-funded supervised visitation services. This grantee was connected with OVW technical assistance providers and was able to access training on supervised visitation to improve their practices.
  - Grantees’ accounts of their efforts to prevent domestic violence-related murders were used in OVW’s development of the Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction Initiative.
  - Grantees’ accounts of the barriers victims face in family courts informed the Family Court Enhancement Project.
- When OVW and/or Department of Justice leadership are planning business travel, they may use those trips as opportunities to visit grantees and see first-hand how grantees are addressing domestic and sexual violence in their communities. OVW recommends grantees for visits after reviewing grant files, including narrative information in progress reports.