

# 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).*



#### 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.

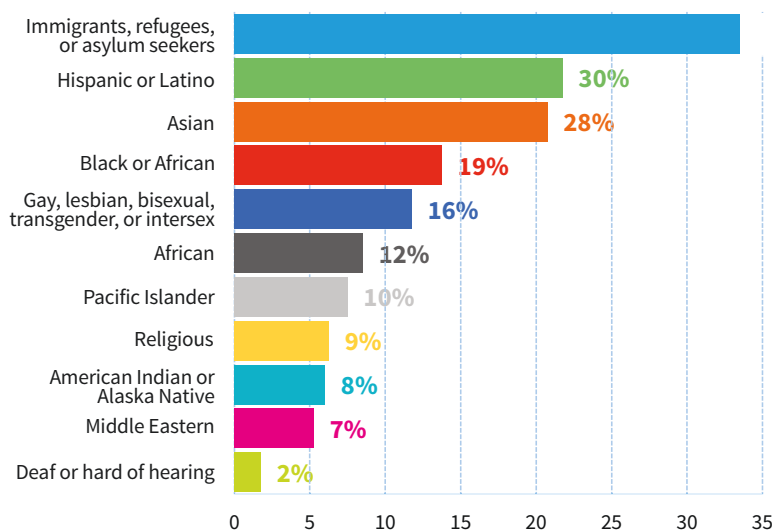


### P.R. • Grantee Perspective

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**

**Figure 1** | Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2015–June 2017 (6-month average)



### 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.**

## 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.



### 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>

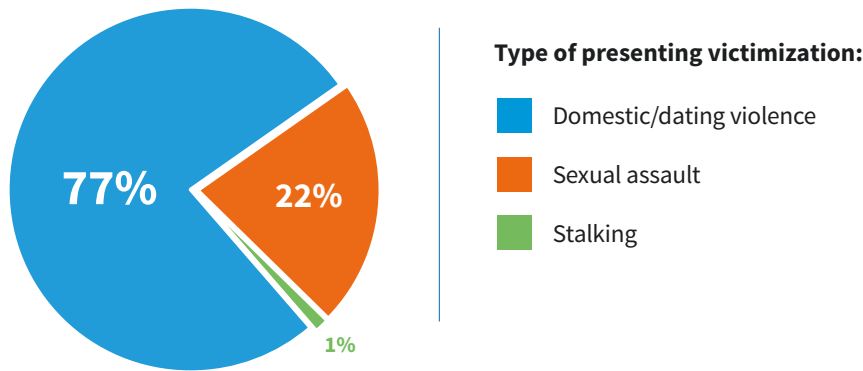
## Victims Seeking Services

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.

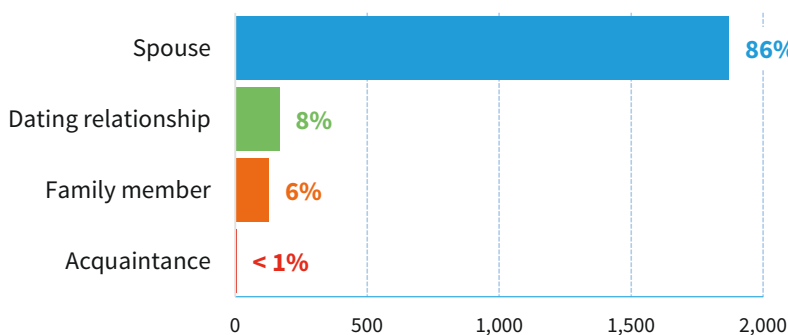
**ASIAN TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MASSACHUSETTS**

### 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)





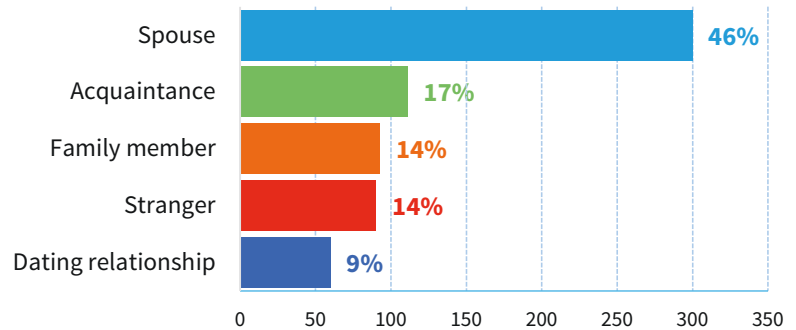


**MN • Grantee Perspective**

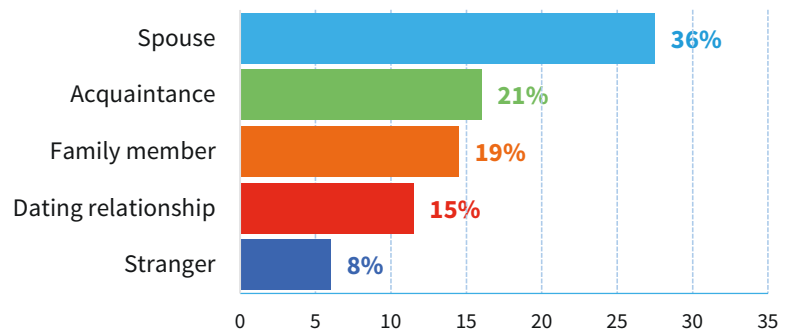
This funding has allowed Cultural Wellness Center to move toward re-establishing African American culture as a healing resource for victims/survivors of domestic violence and articulating a cultural foundation for meeting their needs with multifaceted resources. The work and conversations that have occurred 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:

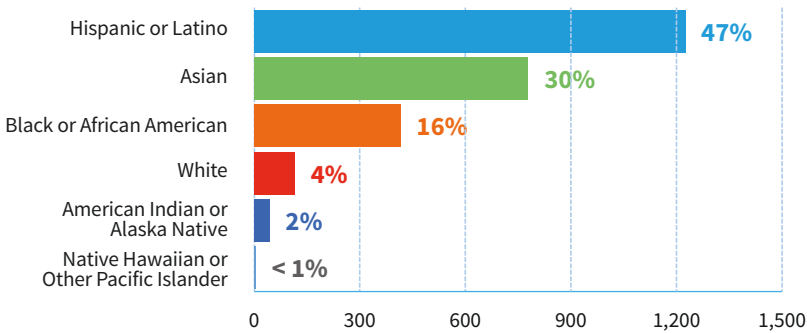
- Program reached capacity;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Transportation;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Lack of child care; or
- Services were not appropriate for victims with mental health issues.

### Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

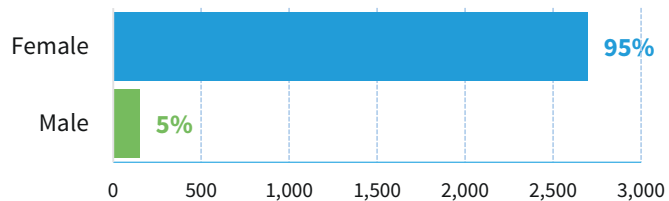
Grantees served or partially served an average of **2,886** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (47%), **female** (95%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (79%).



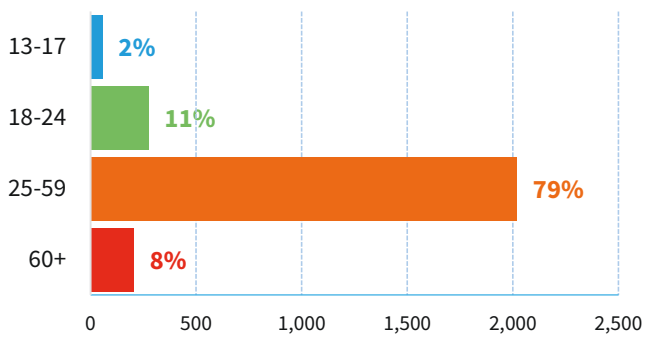
**Figure 6** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity** (6-month average)



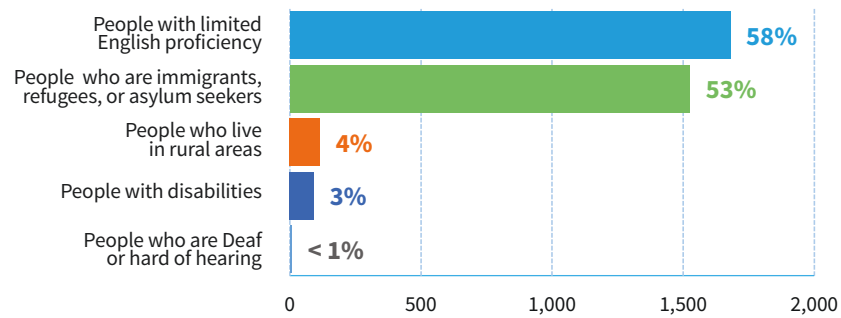
**Figure 7** Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)



**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**

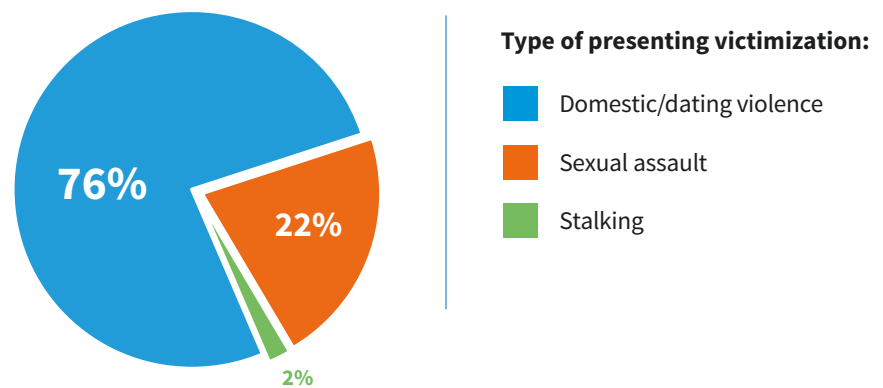
## Secondary Victims

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**

