

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.



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	
Total FTE staff funded	124	
Program coordinators	34	27%
Administrators	31	25%
Support staff	18	15%
Technical assistance providers	10	8%
Communications specialists	9	7%
Systems advocates	8	6%
Trainers	7	6%

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

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

