



Crafting Narratives: Telling the Stories Behind Your Data

VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN ACT

MEASURING
EFFECTIVENESS
INITIATIVE

VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative

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Missions

OVW's Mission:

Provide federal leadership in developing national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking

VAWA MEI's Mission:

Help grantees report accurate data about their work so that effectiveness reports provide a compelling illustration of the scope and burden of violence, as well as the complex multi-system interventions that OVW funds to address it

Today's Training Agenda

- Review how OVW uses grantee narrative data
- Describe best practices for documenting activities and writing compelling narratives
- Look at “real life” examples
- Discuss what narrative information to prioritize and what to write about if you are a new grantee
- Provide guidance on using the narrative to detail the impact of the pandemic on your grant activities

Why Does Data Matter?

“Data are just summaries of thousands of stories – tell a few of those stories to help make the data meaningful.”

– Chip and Dan Heath

“Maybe stories are just data with a soul.”

– Brené Brown

How does OVW use Grantee Data?

- Grantee **monitoring**
- Fulfilling reporting **requirements**
 - Biennial Reports to Congress
- Identifying **trends, promising practices, and unmet needs**
- Performance **measurement**
- Special **data requests**

Data Provides Answers to Questions...

What are grantees doing to address sex trafficking in their communities?

How many law enforcement officers are funded through OVW grants?

How many grantees are using funds to support family justice centers?

What has been the impact of changes to the LAV program on types of services provided and volume of services?

To what extent are OVW grantees using funds to staff Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs?

As You Write, Consider Context, I

Context

- What do the numbers you reported on your progress report actually mean on the ground?

As You Write, Consider Context, 2

CYP funds have allowed us to provide our community with cutting-edge, evidence-based therapies in a supportive and client-centered environment. Clients often comment on how Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) therapists are different because they “just get it”; they understand trauma and meet clients where they are. Without current funding, we would not be able to sustain our initiatives in the school system addressing gender-based violence. Through CYP, we are able to continue collaboration with school personnel and cultivate new relationships with educators, coaches, and administrative staff. This school year, we were able to pilot and implement Athletes As Leaders within Grand Forks County, reaching a population of student athletes that we have not reached in the past. With CYP staff support, this program had a great first year which has opened doors to new relationships that have been built within the sports community. Without funding, we would not see the positive changes and shifts in cultural norms regarding gender-based violence.

As You Write, Consider Impact, I

Impact

- How does your work impact your communities?

As You Write, Consider Impact, 2

Prior to receiving this funding, we had experienced some significant cuts, including to staff. We no longer had a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advocate, who also ran the local SART meeting. We did not have the staffing capacity to focus on the Advocate Initiated Response (AIR) Protocol, or on how to improve our relationships with local law enforcement. The hiring of the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Coordinator has helped us improve our relationships with the legal systems in our county, to update protocols, and to help refresh and retrain officers. This funding has also increased our Bilingual Advocate to 1 FTE, which is significant because we serve a fairly large Spanish speaking population, and that advocate was at her capacity. This advocate has a positive relationship with the community and is trusted. By increasing her hours she can serve more survivors than she could prior to this grant.

As You Write, Consider Impact, 3

Receiving SASP-CS funding has allowed Sakhi to expand its understanding of what gender-based violence entails in the South Asian context and within our communities. Over the last 29 years of Sakhi's existence, we hadn't had the opportunity to address such a critical need as sexual assault in the communities that we serve. Missing in our capacity and services was a dedicated staff member who was trained in the complexities of sexual violence, and in broaching the highly stigmatized and taboo subjects with clients who had experienced such violence over the years. SASP-CS funding has not only allowed Sakhi to engage sensitively with clients who reported experiencing sexual violence, but it has also allowed Sakhi to engage with all of its clients in more open discussion around healthy sexual relationships, bodily integrity, consent, and the trauma that results from the violation of these important rights. With this funding, we continue to be able to introduce new and holistic initiatives and adjust the way we do our work. Ultimately, SASP-CS funding has provided a perfect opportunity to learn new ways to integrate sexual violence work into Sakhi's already robust domestic violence work and practice, allowing us to provide a more holistic approach to our work with survivors.

Impact: Outputs vs. Outcomes, I

Outputs vs. Outcomes

- How does your work impact your communities?

Impact: Outputs vs. Outcomes, 2

➤ Outputs

Reported on ICJR progress report: 2 FTEs, 136 victims served

➤ Outcomes

One of the greatest positive impacts that ICJR funding has provided is to have a full-time dedicated, confidential community-based advocate. She is bilingual, bicultural, and able to provide comprehensive services to victims and survivors as they walk in our office. In this last reporting period, our organization shifted the client flow, which reduced the number of clients being routed to our advocate; however, the highest risk clients, including those with the highest danger score on the Jackie Campbell Assessment, were routed to our specialized advocate. She was able to provide more intensive services to clients than before. She was able to attend more court hearings, expand her reach to the Yelm Municipal Court (a rural area of our community), support people longer term, as well as support the staff in our other programs when they needed a bit of guidance and expertise. We found that though her caseload decreased, her impact was more substantial than before.

As You Write, Ask Yourself...

- Am I being specific and detailed?
- Am I providing concrete examples?
- Am I providing evidence to support my conclusions?
- Am I offering a “before and after” lens?

Provide Concrete Examples

Little by little, the Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition (SWIWC) is making an impact. We may be small, but we are mighty. Without funding, we could not travel to tribal communities to visit and learn firsthand about their training and technical assistance needs, or to experience the challenges of their communities, whether it be rural roads, inconsistent internet, lack of support, remote office locations, distances between program services, law enforcement, or the hospital/clinic. These learned nuances are what make up the backbone of our ability to tailor our services to meet the needs of tribal communities (our membership). Without funding, we could not attend meetings across the state or nationally to provide input that is missing regarding violence against Native women and/or the LGBTQ/2S community. We could not provide regional trainings that offer a viable and meaningful method for tribal community advocates, law enforcement, healthcare workers, and educators to improve their knowledge, skills, and awareness of topics related to domestic and sexual violence.

Evidence to Support Your Conclusions

The most significant impact of this grant funding is having a full-time Project Coordinator on campus to do prevention programming and keep track of other programs happening on campus. In crime prevention logs from the previous school year, we had a total of 13 programs listed between various departments on campus. During the 2017-2018 school year, there were a total of 75 programs documented on the crime prevention program log. These programs and opportunities to request trainings are now more widely known on campus due to in-person conversations and the development of a Violence Prevention web page under Student Life. The web page shares resources and victim services and highlights current initiatives happening on campus. The web page continues to develop as we continue with the grant and learn more about our needs on campus.

Before and After

The Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) would not exist if not for LAV funding. The organization was formed and developed using LAV funding and remains one of the few legal service providers in the country devoted exclusively to serving survivors of sexual assault. Prior to the formation of SALI, many sexual assault survivors, particularly those who had experienced a non-domestic sexual assault, had no access to legal assistance and were not provided with information about their legal options outside of the criminal justice system. Thanks to LAV funding, SALI attorneys now provide the comprehensive and holistic legal information, advice, and representation to survivors that is necessary for access to the entire justice system. LAV funding has allowed SALI to pair survivors with experienced low-bono attorneys who are sensitive to the needs of sexual assault survivors and willing to provide legal assistance. The funding that SALI receives through the LAV grant has improved access to legal services for sexual assault survivors throughout the State of Maryland.

When Narrative Data “Misses the Mark”

- Grandiose claims of effectiveness with no evidence to back it up
- Narrative states what was already reported and does not further detail the efforts of the grant
 - For example, stating “we provided services to 78 victims” but not expanding on if those were comprehensive or how the services impact the community
- Writing about activities that were not supported by the OVW grant or that are not allowable with OVW program funds

If You're Just Getting Started, Write About...

- The gaps in your community that the grant will help you fill
- Project planning efforts
- Existing resources and tools in your community that you will leverage under the grant

“There are few services for youth survivors of dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in our county. For those that do exist, there is little communication about those resources. CY funding allowed us to conduct a thorough needs assessment and develop a plan to address issues while still including many of our community partners. We are excited to use that information in the implementation phase of our program moving forward.”

What Information to Prioritize

- There is a character limit on each narrative question. How do you prioritize what to include?
 - Challenges and accomplishments that cannot be conveyed through numbers alone
 - Numbers that illustrate challenges and accomplishments, but which aren't captured elsewhere in the form

COVID-19 Reporting Guidance for Narrative Questions

- **Include words like “COVID-19” and “pandemic” when describing COVID-19 related adjustments to programing or when explaining incomplete or missing data**
 - Use to explain how the pandemic has impacted the status of your grant goals and objectives
 - Speak to any no cost-extensions or other delayed or revised activities that have been approved by your program specialist

COVID-19 Reporting Guidance (Continued)

- **If you are unable to collect data for the report**
 - Use narrative fields to explain missing data or activities you are unable to quantify right now
 - Do not estimate
 - Any numbers reported should have adequate source documentation

COVID-19 Resources

- **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) guidance for grantees**
 - <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-and-faqs-grantees#covid>
- **VAWA MEI COVID-19 FAQs and Contact Us Form**
 - <https://www.vawamei.org/tools-resources/faqs/category/covid-19-faqs/>
 - <https://www.vawamei.org/contact-us/>
- **Reporting in a Pandemic “Office Hours” recording**
 - <https://www.vawamei.org/tools-resource/reporting-in-a-pandemic-training-video/>

Key Narrative Questions

➤ Program Status

- Grant Goals and Objectives

➤ Funding Allowed

- What has funding allowed you to do that you could not prior to receiving funding?

➤ Additional information about the effectiveness of your grant

Key Narrative Questions: Goals & Objectives

The question asking about the status of your OVW program's grant goals and objectives must be answered every reporting period.

All grantees must answer question 61.

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR RESPONSES TO THE SPACE PROVIDED.

61. Report on the status of your Arrest Program grant goals and objectives as of the end of the current reporting period.

(Report on the status of the goals and objectives for your grant as of the end of the current reporting period, as they were identified in your grant proposal or as they have been added or revised. Indicate whether the activities related to your objectives for the current reporting period have been completed, are in progress, are delayed, or have been revised. Comment on your successes and challenges, and provide any additional explanation you feel is necessary for us to understand what you have or have not accomplished relative to your goals and objectives. If you have not accomplished objectives that should have been accomplished during the current reporting period, you must provide an explanation.) [Click here to answer](#)

Please note: The examples shown above and on the following slides are for the ICJR progress reporting form. The question numbers are different on each program's progress reporting form.

Key Narrative Questions: Need & Funding Allowed

The questions asking about significant areas of remaining need and what OVW funding has allowed must be answered every January to June reporting period.

All grantees must answer questions 62 and 63 on an annual basis. Submit this information on the January to June reporting form only.

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR RESPONSES TO THE SPACE PROVIDED (8,000 CHARACTERS).

- 62. What do you see as the most significant areas of remaining need, with regard to improving services to victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, increasing victims/survivor safety, and enhancing community response (including offender accountability for both batterers and sex offenders)?**

(Consider geographic regions, underserved populations, service delivery systems, types of victims/survivors, and challenges and barriers unique to your state or service area.) [Click here to answer](#)

- 63. What has Arrest Program funding allowed you to do that you could not do prior to receiving this funding?**

(e.g., expand coordination and cross-referrals with victim/survivor services, or track data on arrests and prosecutions) [Click here to answer](#)

Key Narrative Questions: Effectiveness & Data

The questions asking about the effectiveness of your grant-funded program and about the data you submitted are optional.

Questions 64 and 65 are optional.

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR RESPONSES TO THE SPACE PROVIDED (8,000 CHARACTERS).

64. Provide additional information regarding the effectiveness of your grant-funded program.

(If you have any other data or information that you have not already reported in answer to previous questions on this form that demonstrate the effectiveness of your Arrest Program-funded program, please provide it below. Feel free to discuss any of the following: reduction of domestic homicides; institutionalization of staff positions, policies, and/or protocols; systems-level changes; community collaboration; the removal or reduction of barriers and challenges for victims/survivors; promising practices; and positive or negative unintended consequences. Refer to separate instructions for a fuller explanation and examples.) [Click here to answer](#)

65. Provide any additional information that you would like us to know about the data submitted.

(If you have any information that could be helpful in understanding the data you have submitted in this report, please answer this question. For example, if you submitted two different progress reports for the same reporting period, you may explain how the data was apportioned to each report; or if you reported staff—e.g., victim advocates, law enforcement officers, etc.—but you did not report any corresponding victim services or law enforcement activities, you may explain why; or if you did not use program funds to support either staff or activities during the reporting period, please explain how program funds were used, if you have not already done so.)

[Click here to answer](#)

Visit VAWA MEI's Website!



www.vawamei.org

Your Turn! Any Questions?





Thank you!

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