

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.

62 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 62 unique grantees reported activities funded by the CSSP Program.

2,362 Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 2,362 victims during each 6-month reporting period.

373 Immigration Matters

On average, grantees provided assistance with 373 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).





GA • Grantee Perspective

This funding allows our organization to increase the capacities of our branches in Northern Virginia, Gulf Coast Alabama, and Mississippi, and expand our services to a new community of Vietnamese Americans in Atlanta, Georgia. It allows us to offer in-house culturally and linguistically specific services that are not available elsewhere, such as case management, mental health counseling, interpreting services, financial literacy training, emergency assistance, and safety planning.

We have been able to provide orientation and training to mainstream service providers on cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed practices before referring clients to their shelters, legal, medical, mental health, and vocational training services. Because of this funding, our program was able to further promote and enhance our outreach effort through a mass media campaign and work in cooperation with community- and faith-based organizations to offer workshops educating community members at large about domestic violence and available services. With our set goals, we will be moving closer to transforming the cultural climate around domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in order to prevent or intervene sooner in future cases, highlighting strategies that fit the distinct needs of Vietnamese Americans.

BOAT PEOPLE S.O.S., GEORGIA

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:

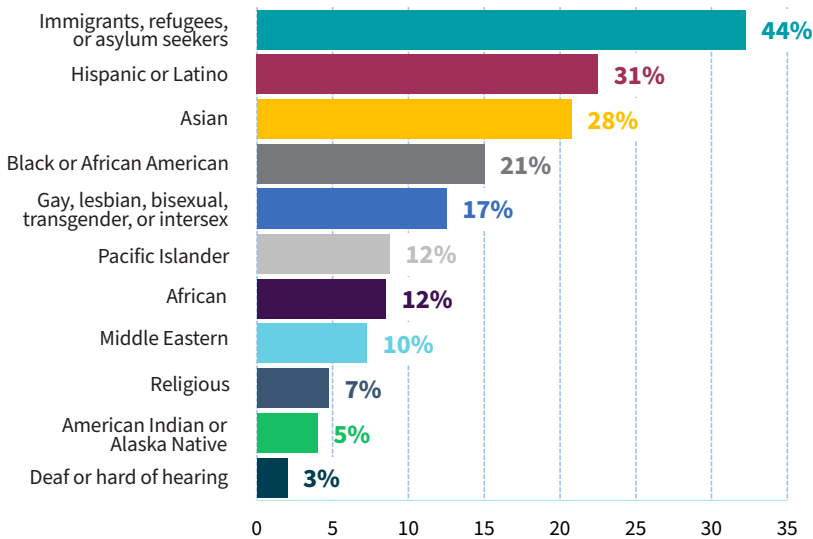
- Increase communities' capacity to provide culturally specific resources and support for victims and their families;
- Enhance traditional services to victims through the leadership of culturally specific programs offering services to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Work in cooperation with the 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.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **62** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **4** (6%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - 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; and
 - Provide culturally and linguistically specific resources and services that address the safety, economic, housing, and workplace needs of victims.

Figure 1 | Grantees serving culturally specific populations by type of population, July 2017–June 2019 (6-month average)



The United States has a history of migration, and a diverse, changing population. In 2019, over one-third (39.9%) of the population identified as a member of a racial or ethnic minority group, such as Asian or Asian American; Black or of African descent; Latinx or Hispanic; Native American or American Indian; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; multi-racial; along with other religious and ethnic minorities (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Racial, ethnic, and/or religious minorities may encounter barriers to seeking services and escaping violence due to factors such as poverty, racism, isolation, exclusion, cultural norms, immigration status, limited access to services, and a dearth of linguistically and/or culturally appropriate services (Alvarez & Fedock, 2018; Campbell et al., 2008; Choi et al., 2016; Crenshaw, 1991; Dabby, 2017; Deutsch et al., 2017; Ho et al., 2017; Kapur et al., 2017; Lee, 2013; Mose & Gillum, 2015; O’Neal & Beckman, 2016; Stockman et al., 2014; St. Vil et al., 2017; Yoshihama et al., 2012).



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.**

- **62** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **74** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates and program coordinators.



MI • Grantee Perspective

Prior to having CSSP funding, LA VIDA would not have had enough staff to provide culturally specific support groups to Latina women in Southwest Detroit and Southeast Michigan. With the addition of our CSSP Outreach Worker, we have been able to sustain a continuous support group for Latina survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). CSSP funding has also allowed the Special Programs Manager to design and implement a culturally specific Financial Empowerment curriculum for Latina survivors of IPV, especially women who have experienced/are experiencing financial abuse. We have been able to provide regular classes at our location for women that include many financial topics in a culturally specific manner that existing curricula are lacking. We have also been able to provide financial workshops at parent meetings in the community for survivors of financial abuse, which would not have been possible without CSSP funding. Because of these educational workshops, we have seen an increase in women coming to LA VIDA for other services such as adult and youth counseling and legal advocacy.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES/LA VIDA PARTNERSHIP, MICHIGAN

Table 1 | Staff supported with CSSP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	74	
Victim advocates	19	26%
Program coordinators	15	20%
Administrators	10	14%
Outreach workers	8	11%
Counselors	7	9%
Trainers	6	8%

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



On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of VAWA (2019), 72 leaders who work in service provision, justice responses, advocacy, and research in the field of domestic/sexual violence told interviewers that enhancing the cultural relevance of responses to violence was a major concern. They reported that all programs, not just those aimed at culturally specific populations, should be prepared to serve victims with intersectional identities and complex experiences, particularly through anti-oppression and social justice approaches. These views point toward the importance of developing and providing training that enhances the flexibility of all programs and agencies that serve victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and communities (White et al., 2019).



MD • Grantee Perspective

The CSSP funding has allowed Progressive Life Center to engage the faith-based community in a way that we have not previously been able to. We have greater credibility in the community as an organization that not only cares about domestic violence and sexual assault, but one that is willing to provide technical assistance and support. We have developed new partnerships with other service providers and faith-based leaders, gained the trust of survivors that we have their best interest at heart, worked with more government entities, worked on coalition building and to create an organized community response. It has also allowed us to create a culturally specific training for African American survivors and the faith community.

PROGRESSIVE LIFE CENTER, INC., MARYLAND

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.**

- **50** (81%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **802** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **14,803** people.
- Most often these trainings reached victim advocates (**13%**), health professionals (**10%**), faith/spiritual-based organization staff (**8%**), volunteers (**8%**), and law enforcement officers (**8%**).

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.**ⁱ

- **54** (87%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees hosted a total of **2,296** education events.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **56,790** people.

Table 2 | People educated with CSSP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

People educated	2-year total	
Total people educated	56,790	
Community members	27,422	48%
Middle/high school students	6,650	12%
Faith-based groups	5,717	10%
University or college students	5,535	10%
Community groups	3,039	5%

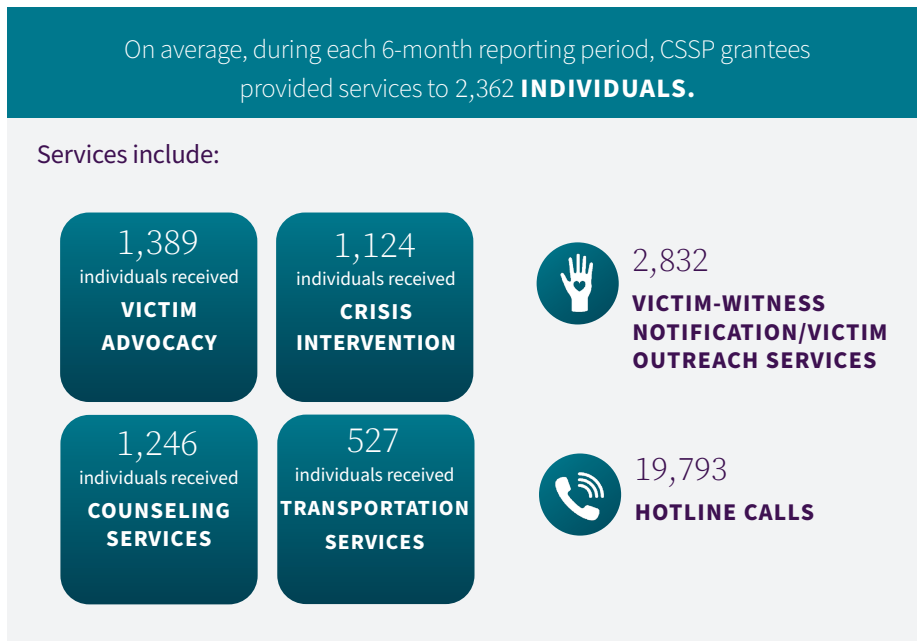
NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

ⁱ 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.


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.**


- **61** (98%) grantees used funds for victim services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **2,362** victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.



By presenting violence as a public health issue that is relevant to everyone, and not just victims, grantees work to change both collective social norms and individual behavior and perceptions (Ford et al., 2017; McMahon & Baker, 2011; Tabachnick & McCartan, 2017; Yoshihama et al., 2012). Depending upon the needs and resources of specific communities, grantees' efforts might range from posting materials on bulletin boards in rural settings to large social media campaigns in major metropolitan areas.



The VAWA self-petition and the T and U visas are remedies available to immigrant and refugee victims of domestic/sexual violence and other crimes to assist them in obtaining safety and escaping their abusers (Angel & Orloff, 2014; Orloff et al., 2014; U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2016; Warren, 2016). The VAWA self-petition is designed to prevent an abusive citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse from using immigration-related threats to keep an abused immigrant spouse from reporting the abuse or leaving the abusive relationship (Procedure for Granting Immigrant Status, 2013; Violence Against Women Act of 1994, 2000; Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005). The T and U visas are vehicles of humanitarian relief for victims of certain serious crimes who lack lawful status in the United States and who are helpful, have been helpful, or are likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crimes. T visas may be granted to victims of severe forms of trafficking, and among the crimes for which a U visa may be granted are rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault; however, victims must have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the crime (Immigration and Nationality Act; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2016).



NM • Grantee Perspective

The CSSP funding has allowed our organization to continue to collaborate with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center to provide crucial legal immigration services to victims of domestic violence. With these funds, we are able to comprehensively assist many victims/survivors with specific types of immigration needs and meet a tremendous gap in services. Prior to receiving this funding, we were very limited in the number of cases we could accept for direct representation, especially complex cases involving removal defense or asylum. This funding has allowed us to provide direct representation, specifically in more complicated cases which are not accepted by other agencies.

ENLACE COMUNITARIO, NEW MEXICO



CA • Grantee Perspective

Our Korean advocate provides linguistically and culturally specific support for the Korean LGBTQ community. It is difficult for LGBTQ Korean Americans to seek out support for domestic violence for a myriad of reasons, ranging from fear of ostracization in the Korean community to experiences of outright or latent homophobia and transphobia. Through her work and partnerships with Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence, she gathered and created community resources for LGBTQ Korean Americans on peer support and identifying violence. These resources range from a national research publication, *With You*, to queer conference presentations, to a series of daylong workshops dedicated to skills-building around survivor support in the community. Community members and participants have expressed what a different experience it is to get to discuss such issues and be open about experiences of violence, particularly at the intersections of Korean identity and queerness.

ASIAN WOMEN'S SHELTER, CALIFORNIA

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided assistance with the following immigration matters:

- U visa services for **102** victims;
- VAWA self-petition services for **44** victims;
- Work authorization services for **39** victims;
- T visa services for **18** victims; and
- Cancellation of removal services for **5** 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 2017–June 2019

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	47	50	7,192
Transitional housing	23	12	9,607
Total	69	62	16,799

Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (73%).

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)

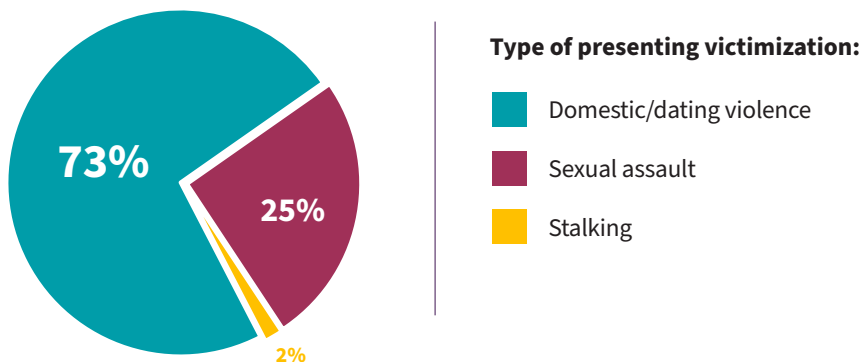


Table 4 | Victims seeking services with CSSP grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	2,390	
Victims served	2,255	94%
Victims partially served	107	4%
Victims not served	29	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.

Victims’ Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- 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)

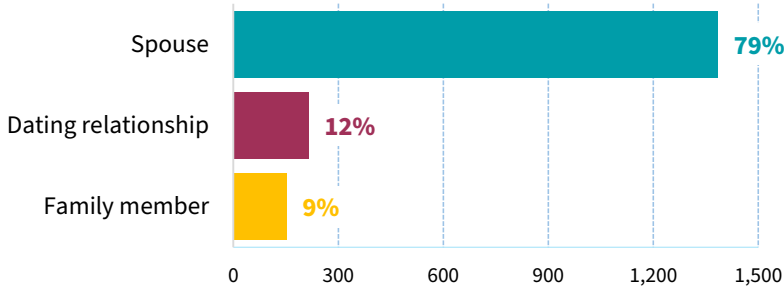
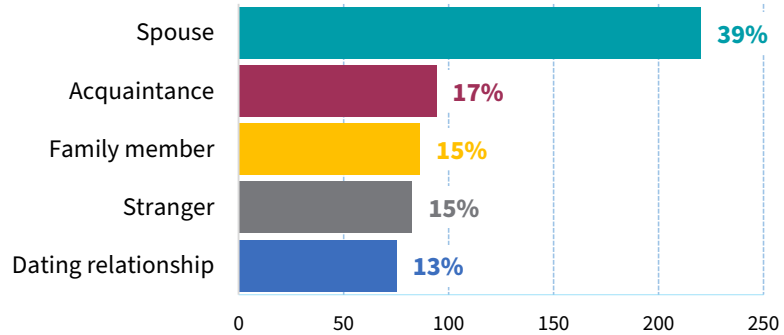


Figure 4 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



OR • Grantee Perspective



The funding has allowed us to hire additional staff and offer more frequent and different types of culturally specific trauma groups. These support groups offer a space for survivors to heal and recover in a safe environment and build connections and supports that continue beyond the group. Trauma group members were afforded one-on-one case management and mental health therapy with a culturally specific therapist. We have been able to serve more survivors and offer services to youth affected by domestic violence, and have offered groups for youth in our Self-Enhancement, Inc. schools. Advocates were able to attend extensive training and share the practices with the organization, as well as provide greatly needed training in our state to advocates working in mainstream organizations in communities without many culturally specific services for African Americans. Advocates were able to advocate for survivors at community coordinated access meetings. Advocates were given one-on-one and group clinical supervision with an African American clinical supervisor.

SELF ENHANCEMENT, INC., OREGON

IL • Grantee Perspective



Having a second adult counselor will allow us to have the capacity to make a greater impact in the lives of survivors through our counseling services. Our state of Illinois has struggled to pass a state level budget, forcing some agencies to close and decreasing service options for survivors. Those that remain open, like our agency, are noting an increase in clients seeking services. It is especially important for our agency to increase its capacity to serve immigrant survivors who have even fewer options and resources. We find that many Spanish-speaking survivors prefer to travel long distances and wait for services at our agency because of our culturally proficient services. CSSP funds have been particularly critical during this period of instability in our state.

MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCION, ILLINOIS

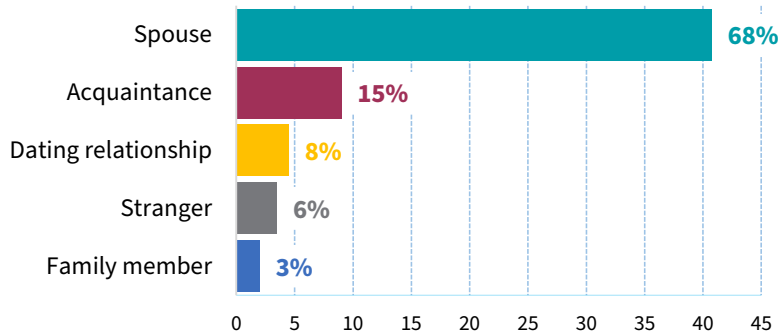


IL • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the organization to have a better understanding of domestic violence and how it manifests in the community. The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) can now offer holistic health and wellness services through the various relationships established within the domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking network of providers. This would likely not be possible without this funding source. Historically, the PRCC has provided culturally and linguistically competent programs that serve Puerto Rican/Latino African American/Black survivors and are inclusive of the LGBTQ community in a culturally sensitive manner. This enhancement grant has allowed us to complement all of our current health and educational programs with domestic violence direct services including education, counseling, and case management.

PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER, ILLINOIS

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;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Transportation;
- Services were not appropriate for victims with mental health issues; or
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **2,362** victims during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **Hispanic or Latina** (42%), **female** (95%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (71%).

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

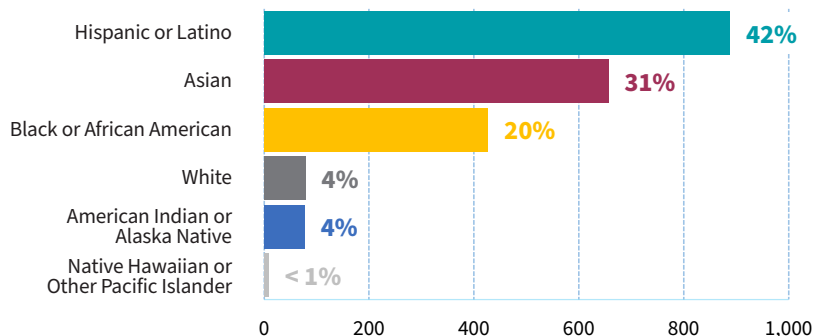


Figure 7 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

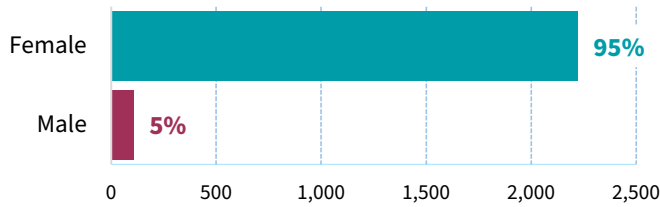


Figure 8 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

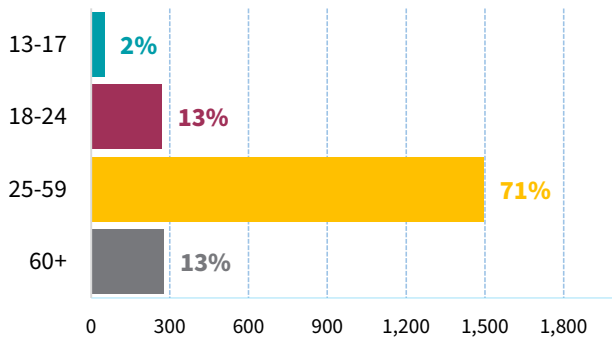
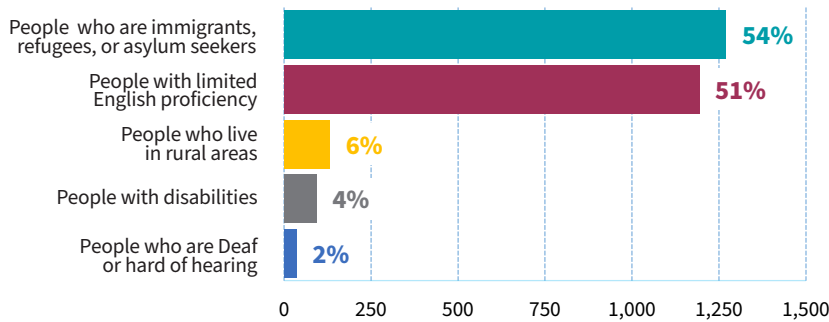


Figure 9 | Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



MI • Grantee Perspective



This funding has allowed us to provide and maintain culturally identifiable spaces where victims feel validated and affirmed. It has allowed us to have a Crisis Line, to provide trauma-informed workshops with supporting materials, and to obtain training and technical assistance. Funding has given us the opportunity to provide full-time culturally specific services to victims and survivors in the Black community that were not there before. Now with our Culturally Specific funded programming, Black women who have never had an opportunity to even tell their stories, have someone to believe them, or a place to go to experience hope, help, and healing at our center. They are becoming economically empowered and getting referrals for services that really help them.

SISTERS AGAINST ABUSE SOCIETY, MICHIGAN



PA • Grantee Perspective

This grant continues to allow us to form strong partnerships and collaboration with mainstream service providers and law enforcement in the counties that we serve. It also allows us to provide services to immigrant survivors in places where there are limited services available to them. Funding from this grant also allows us to obtain qualified interpreters and telephonic translation services for our clients during our appointments and immigration interviews.

NATIONALITIES SERVICE CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



MO • Grantee Perspective

Two of the most significant areas of remaining need with regard to improving services to victims/survivors of sexual assaults, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking are awareness and education. Our communities continue to perceive and define violence in their own terms and have prejudiced and biased perceptions based upon media, religious influences, personal experiences, and community influences. Recent societal influences are impacting the response to victims. Lack of respect for law enforcement, racism, street violence, poverty, and distrust of others all impact the services provided to victims of domestic violence. The communities of Missouri are affected by these influences. Victims are often regarded as guilty due to race, religion, language, or other human characteristics. Latino victims suffer discrimination and persecution due to language barriers, skin color, and lack of understanding of the system.

HAND IN HAND MULTICULTURAL CENTER, MISSOURI



GA • Grantee Perspective

The legal system has not been culturally competent at times and courts often have not offered proper language/interpretation services. Survivors who have limited English proficiency (LEP) experience a difficult time in seeking services since law enforcement will often show hesitation or frustration about handling a case involving a LEP survivor and use the abuser or other family members for interpretation. This is very dangerous in cases that move forward to clients acquiring temporary protection orders and has made a significant difference in the outcome of the hearing and final order by the judge.

RAKSHA, GEORGIA

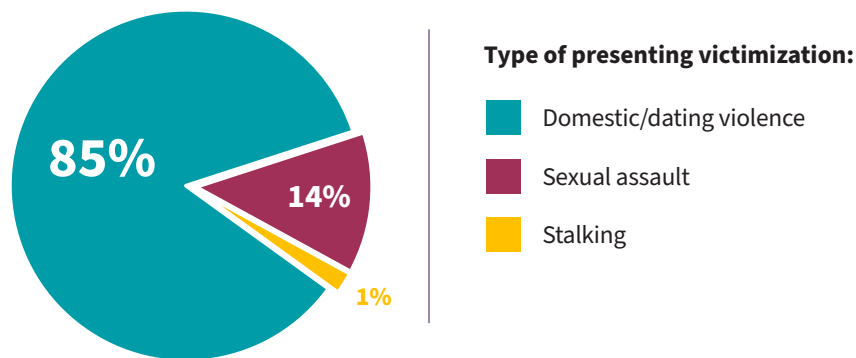
Secondary Victims

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 **552** 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 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 compromised their safety.**

Specifically, grantees called for **more trained bilingual advocates across shelters, social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, cities, and counties.**

Grantees also cited the need for more **community education, outreach, and awareness in the cultural communities in which they worked** in order to:

- Encourage open discussion of sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Promote positive community beliefs that support victims;
- Educate young people about healthy relationships;
- Promote available services; and
- Encourage victims to come forward.

Grantees also reported a need for more **culturally and linguistically appropriate victim services**, especially:

- Mental health and substance abuse services; and
- Civil legal services.

Additionally, grantees identified **increased access to free or low-cost civil legal assistance** as a growing need in marginalized communities.

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, judges, court personnel, and service providers on culturally-sensitive, trauma-informed practices**.

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:

- Immigrant victims;
- Youth or child victims;
- LGBTQ victims;
- Male victims;
- Victims in rural areas; and
- Victims with limited English proficiency.

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.

D.C. • Grantee Perspective



Based on our program's experience with the community we serve, one of the remaining areas of significant need is the expansion of access to legal services, especially for family and immigration matters. There is also great need for more readily available information about the issue of child custody and child support, as well as for political asylum for domestic violence victims. The demand for legal advice and services associated with these issues is too high within our community and the services that our Entre Amigas program has access to, while reflective of an amazing strong network of partners, are not enough to address the need.

LA CLINICA DEL PUEBLO, WASHINGTON, D.C.

NJ • Grantee Perspective



We still identify a lack of language access as a significant area of remaining need for South Asian survivors seeking services. In order to report a crime, appear in court, or even access a single social service, the survivor's needs must be understood. We have found, from speaking with our survivors, a lack of language access not only deters them from seeking help elsewhere but often keeps them in their current situation.

MANAVI, NEW JERSEY

NY • Grantee Perspective



Due to the intersectionality of sexual violence with immigration and socio-economic status, many victims refrain from reporting crimes and enter the legal system with the fear of being exposed to immigration related issues, job loss and even arrest. They fear losing their children and being deported and as a result, continue being abused.

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM, INC., NEW YORK

