

# Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies

The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA authorized two youth-focused grant programs for which Congress has not appropriated funds. Rather, federal appropriations since FY 2012 have included funding for a Consolidated Youth Program that serves victims ages 0 to 24 and promotes boys' and men's roles in combating violence against women and girls. VAWA 2013 also added sex trafficking as a victimization that could be addressed under VAWA's tribal- and youth-specific programs.

**CONSOLIDATED YOUTH PROGRAM GRANTEEES INCORPORATE CEV, EMY, STEP, and Youth Services purpose areas, including teen dating violence awareness and prevention, programs that respond to children's exposure to violence in their homes through services and training, and engaging men as leaders and role models.**

## 69 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 69 unique grantees reported activities funded by the CY Program.

## 1,095 Child Victims Served

On average, grantees served or partially served 1,095 child victims during each 6-month reporting period.

## 21,990 People Reached

Grantees reached a total of 21,990 people at community-wide events.

*Findings from a nationally representative study of children exposed to violence showed that one-third of respondents experienced a physical assault in the past year, and 13% of those aged 14-17 experienced sexual assault or abuse in that time. Another large national study found that among high school adolescents, 11.7% of female and 7.4% of male students experienced physical dating violence, and 15.6% of female and 5.4% of male students experienced sexual dating violence (Finkelhor et al., 2015; Olsen et al., 2017).*





*Like adult victims of domestic/sexual violence, children who are exposed to violence are best served by research, policy, and practice that takes into account the many layers of their identities and their complex social positions, including gender, age, sexuality, race, ethnicity, poverty, and culture (Barrios et al., 2020; Etherington, & Baker, 2018).*



#### MN • Grantee Perspective

With the support of OWW funding we have accomplished many goals that may not have been possible otherwise. We now have the monetary support to hire an advocate to work directly with Latin@ youth, and to have a men and boys coordinator to deepen the work with allies. Prevention with Latino boys has been key to the work. Since the beginning of this grant, we have been able to serve over 100 youth survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, staking and trafficking, and over 2,400 total Latin@ community members have received education, awareness, and training on teen DV, SA, and healthy masculinity. During this grant period the youth advocate has been able to establish strong relationships with key partners including two charter high schools for teen moms, AGAPE and Longfellow, and a charter school specifically serving Latin@ youth. In both sites, the youth advocate and the social worker provide weekly support groups for the Latina teen moms. This setting provides the opportunity for students to discuss issues affecting their lives as parents.

A number of them are new immigrants who have goals and dreams, as any other youth in this country, and with the advocate's support, they can learn how to navigate the school system and pursue higher education. In addition, the youth advocate provides support and advocacy services for youth participants in the community who also are experiencing domestic, sexual, and dating violence.

#### CASA DE ESPERANZA, MINNESOTA



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

Prior to receiving this funding, the Ali Forney Center (AFC) had only one therapist on staff and a long wait list. In part due to funding from this CEV Program, AFC has been able to add therapists and re-establish the role of Clinical Coordinator. We no longer have a therapy wait list, and every client who completes intake with us is assigned a therapist.

#### ALI FORNEY CENTER, NEW YORK

Grantees must provide culturally, linguistically, and community relevant services to meet the needs of underserved populations, or referrals to existing services within their community.

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Provide services for children and youth exposed to domestic/sexual violence, including youth victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, such as direct counseling, advocacy, or mentoring, and must include support for the non-abusing parent or the child's caretaker;
- Provide training, coordination, and advocacy for programs that serve children and youth (such as Head Start, child care, and after-school programs) on how to safely and confidentially identify children and families experiencing domestic violence and properly refer them to programs that can provide direct services to the children and family; and
- Create public education campaigns and support community organizing to encourage men and boys to work as allies to women and girls, endeavoring to prevent domestic/sexual violence.

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.**

## General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **69** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **10** (14%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.

## Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training to professionals who work with children; training and public education to engage men and youth in ending violence; and victim services to child victims and children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **69** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **100** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support program coordinators and trainers.

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

Staff funded	6-month average	
<b>Total FTE staff funded</b>	<b>100</b>	
Program coordinators	<b>28</b>	<b>28%</b>
Trainers	<b>14</b>	<b>14%</b>
Mental health professionals	<b>13</b>	<b>13%</b>
Administrators	<b>11</b>	<b>11%</b>
Victim advocates	<b>9</b>	<b>9%</b>
Outreach workers	<b>7</b>	<b>7%</b>
Counselors	<b>5</b>	<b>5%</b>

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

## Training

Grantees provide training to social service and healthcare professionals, educators and other school staff, child care providers, and other professionals to improve the professional identification of and response to children exposed to domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **50** (72%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **878** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **17,760** people.
- Most often these trainings reached educators (**24%**), social service organization staff (**9%**), health professionals (**6%**), and mental health professionals (**6%**).

## Community Organizing/Mobilization and Prevention

Grant-funded staff assist in community organizing and mobilization, encouraging men and boys to work as allies to prevent physical and/or sexual violence and build safe, supportive, and accountable communities.

- **19** (28%) grantees used funds for community organization/mobilization and prevention.

## Community Organizing Events

Grantees provide community-wide events, such as school presentations and public forums, for members of the communities they are working in.

- Grantees hosted a total of **460** community-wide events.
- Grantees reached a total of **21,990** people at community-wide events.
  - Grantees most frequently hosted information tables (**35%**), school presentations (**25%**), and culturally specific events (**53%**).

### ND • Grantee Perspective



The Consolidated Youth Program has allowed us to hire and train staff to serve children and youth who have experienced trauma. In addition to funding staff, CY also greatly assists in our ability to provide training to increase staff competency in a variety of areas. For example, we were able to send our child therapist to an Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Child Specialist training, and two CY-funded therapists were able to attend a state Play Therapy conference and receive a certification training in “AutPlay” therapy. This enhanced their ability to work with children who have disabilities and are on the Autism Spectrum who have also experienced trauma. Attending this conference would not have been possible without CY funding.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE CENTER, NORTH DAKOTA

*In a recent survey of 11,794 high school students, LGBTQ youth reported higher levels of teen dating violence than non-LGBTQ youth, which is in line with a growing body of research on the subject. LGBTQ students also reported higher levels of anxiety, suicidality, and peer victimization. These findings point toward the need for prevention programming, training, and services that take into account the complex experiences of LGBTQ youth (Espelage et al., 2018).*



### TX • Grantee Perspective



Prior to receiving CEV funding, we were not able to conduct any prevention programming in the Manor community. With this funding, we were able to engage children and youth in prevention from PreK - 12th grade, and offer opportunities during the school day (e.g. social emotional skills groups; safe dating workshops) or through after school programs (Con Mi MADRE, African American Youth Harvest Foundation) and paid summer youth leadership programs.

THE SAFE ALLIANCE, TEXAS

### ME • Grantee Perspective



We have been able to expand our work to fully serve Oxford County, and to provide education to more youth in schools in the region we did not previously have the capacity to serve. We have been able to strengthen our relationships with our grant partners and explore new avenues for collaboration, including co-facilitated support groups and partnering on drop-ins.

SAFE VOICES, MAINE



*A recent longitudinal study of teen dating violence suggests that the age of onset for these forms of violence is quite young, with psychological teen dating violence often starting in early adolescence. These findings indicate that middle school primary prevention efforts may be particularly effective, namely those focused on building conflict resolution skills (Shorey, 2018).*



*Programs and campaigns may increase men's awareness about gender-based violence, encouraging them to commit to ending it by becoming formally involved in violence prevention efforts, and/or by being a role model and vocal proponent of respectful relationships in their own families and communities (Casey et al., 2013, 2017; Tolman et al., 2017).*



#### MI • Grantee Perspective

Without this funding, we would not have been able to provide comprehensive, holistic, trauma-informed, empowerment-based counseling services to youth exposed to intimate partner violence. We would not have been able to build such strong relationships with our community partners and it has improved police response immensely. We have been able to integrate our prevention and intervention efforts and have established a strong, cohesive, youth-led network of peer leaders in Southwest Detroit. We have served 195 youth survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, or youth exposed to these crimes during the reporting period. We have enhanced our relationship with our MOU partners, including Alternatives for Girls, and provided street outreach for sexually exploited youth through this funding. We have also created art installations and videos that help to promote the importance of healthy relationships, safety, and consent among young, Latinx residents of Southwest Detroit.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES/LA VIDA PARTNERSHIP, MICHIGAN

## Ongoing Community Organizing Activities

In addition to community-wide events, grantees provided ongoing community organizing/mobilization and prevention activities, such as educational courses and leadership/mentoring trainings, to targeted groups of men and youth.

- Grantees provided **238** ongoing community organizing activities.
  - The most common types of ongoing activities provided were educational courses (**50%**) and leadership/mentorship trainings (**35%**).
- Grantees provided these ongoing activities to **8,133** people.
  - Grantees most frequently reached elementary, middle, high school, and university students (**48%**); culturally specific community group members (**8%**); and fatherhood group members (**8%**).

## Public Education/Awareness Campaigns

Grantees create public education campaigns encouraging men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent domestic/sexual violence.

- **12** (17%) grantees used funds for public education/awareness campaigns.

In the two years covered by this report, **Consolidated Youth grantees provided:**

123  
**PUBLIC EDUCATION/  
AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

via **platforms** such as:

ONLINE SOCIAL  
MEDIA

CONTESTS

POSTERS

## Services for Child Victims, Children Indirectly Exposed, and their Non-Abusing Parents/Caregivers

Child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence need comprehensive support services that meet a wide array of needs to help them become and remain safe from violence.

- **37** (54%) grantees used funds for victim services.

## Child Victim Services

Grantees may provide child victims with individual or group counseling services; offer education advocacy with the child's school; assist the child and accompanying parent or caregiver in obtaining a protection order; and provide safety planning, court accompaniment, shelter, and/or transportation.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **1,095** child victims during each 6-month period.
- **99%** of child victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:**

- Child advocacy services to **691** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **507** victims; and
- Crisis intervention services to **447** victims.

### Child Victims Seeking Services

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

- Most victims served or partially served were victims of **sexual assault** (49%).

*An estimated one in ten adults report being sexually abused as children. These child victims are more likely to experience other forms of child abuse, maltreatment, and neglect. Additionally, girls are more likely than boys to experience sexual abuse (Perez-Fuentes et al., 2013; Carlson et al., 2015). Notably, however, the incidence of children exposed to or experiencing violence is much higher than the rates of these crimes reported to authorities (Health Resources & Services Administration and Maternal & Child Health Bureau, 2015).*



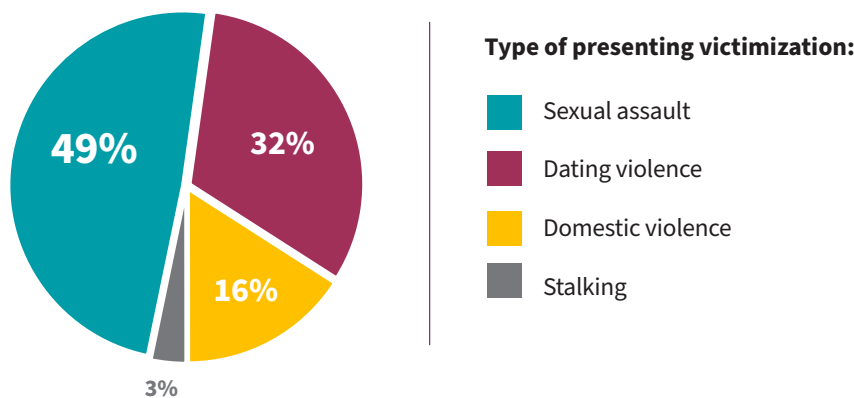
**Tribal • Grantee Perspective**



The CEV program funding has allowed us to work more closely with youth in the community. Building those one-on-one relationships with children who have been exposed to or who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence has proven beneficial to the children and youth, as well as the advocates. Through this grant we are able to assist children and youth with emergency clothing, hygiene products, food, and school supplies and we are able to eliminate homelessness for children by providing rental assistance to the family. Our Child Therapist has been a wonderful added resource for children and youth who have experienced trauma. Working one-on-one with the children seems to be the most rewarding in our field of work. They start to trust and ask questions and they soon realize we are there for them and no matter what they say, it stays between us and is confidential. Working on crafts, taking them on outdoor adventures and having the children use journals to write their thoughts down has opened a huge door of communication between the child and the advocate. Our major role is building trust between the child and advocate. Soon they start calling their advocate to tell them something exciting that happened to them that day. As indicated by our data, our form of advocacy provides children and youth with a feeling of comfort in coming forward to a safe place to address their DV/SA victimization and exposure.

**KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS**

**Figure 1** | Provision of victim services by CY Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization  
**Child victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)**



**Table 2** | Child victims seeking services with CY grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Child victims seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total child victims seeking services</b>	<b>1,103</b>	
Child victims served	1,051	95%
Child victims partially served	44	4%
Child victims not served	8	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 CY Program 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 CY Program grant.



A recent survey of 1,141 high-risk youth who had been exposed to violence found that at particular points during early adolescence, boys may be at equal risk of experiencing teen dating violence as girls. While the fear caused by victimization seems to impact girls more intensely, these data indicate a need to consider the impacts of teen dating violence across age and gender (Reidy et al., 2016).



**MA • Grantee Perspective**

The CEV grant has brought together key stakeholders in the community to respond to the violence our young people are experiencing, and to build a sustainable plan to support, prevent, and build a healthier community. This has been done through the assembly of our Springfield Responds Advisory Board which comes together each month to both treat and prevent dating violence. With the representatives from community-based agencies, the local police force, the school district, and the District Attorney's Office, we have already made so much headway in shifting the culture of violence in our community. Much of this has been through the creation of a policy that is in the works to be adopted by the Springfield Public School system.

**YWCA OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**



**VT • Grantee Perspective**

CEV funding has created an unprecedented depth of prevention and intervention services for marginalized youth in Chittenden County, VT. Youth left CEV grant programs with more skills for reaching out to people who can help and provide resources to get that help. One participant said, "I have a community of people to fall back on if I ever need them." Another youth participant shared, "one thing I'm leaving [the program with] that I didn't know before is that there really are other people going through the same things I am, and they understand and actually know how it feels." Building supportive community connection is an enormous source of resilience for marginalized youth who are often isolated and left feeling alone. Because their marginalization can increase their vulnerability to experiences of violence, providing spaces where they connect, learn about healthy relationships and resources, and grow a deeper connection to their sense of self worth and authenticity begins the lifelong pivot toward healing, violence prevention, and ultimately culture shift.

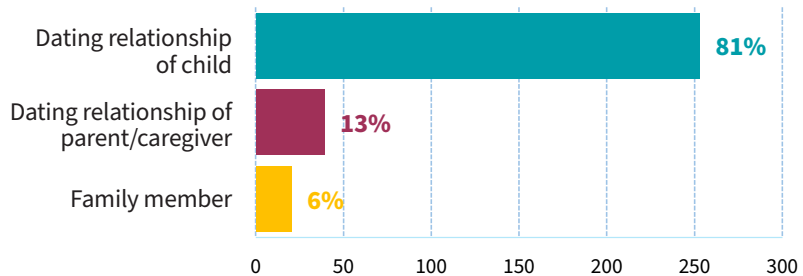
**HOPE WORKS, INC., VERMONT**

## Child Victims' Relationships to Offenders

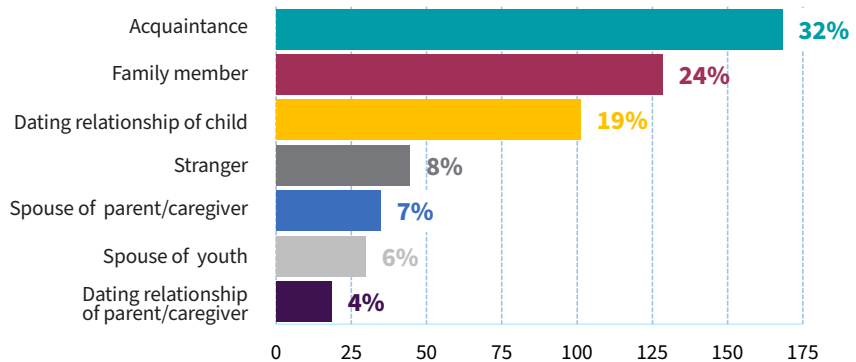
Grantees serve child victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The child victims most frequently served or partially served were victimized in the context of the **child's dating relationship** (35%).
- The remaining child victims were most commonly victimized by a **family member** (22%) or by an **acquaintance** (18%).

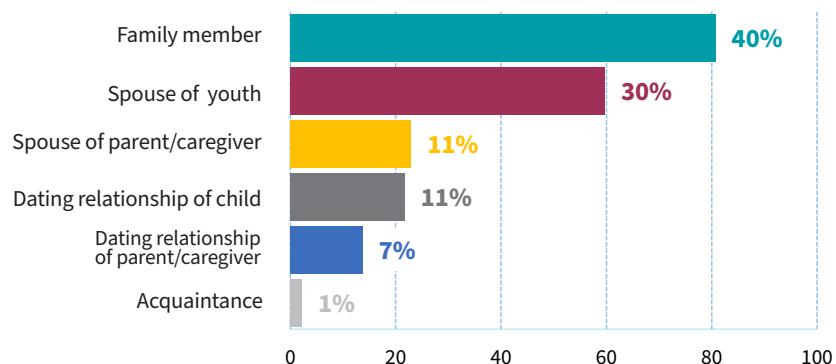
**Figure 2** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Dating violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 3** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

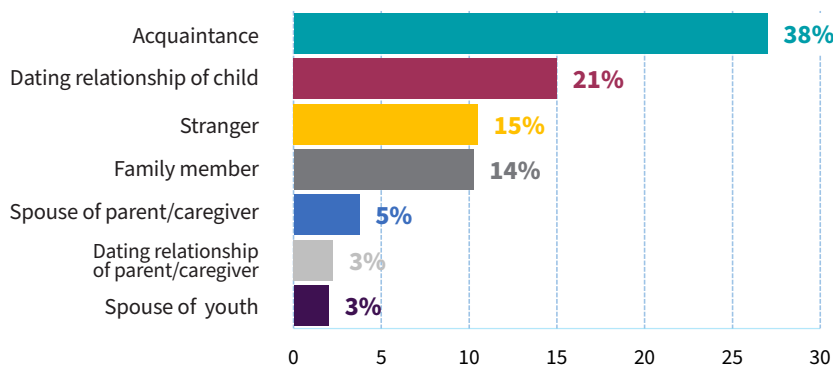


**Figure 4** Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic violence** (6-month average)





**Figure 5** | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**  
(6-month average)



### Reasons Child Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why child victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources;
- Transportation;
- Program reached capacity;
- Services not appropriate for child; or
- Victim did not meet statutory requirements.

### Services for Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence

Grantees provide a variety of services to children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence, including child advocacy, crisis intervention, and individual or group counseling. Children indirectly exposed to violence may also require assistance with school- and/or health-related issues, transportation needs, and legal issues. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help children become and remain safe from violence.**

- Grantees provided services to an average of **797** children indirectly exposed to violence during each 6-month period.
- **97%** of children indirectly exposed to violence who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

**During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:**

- Child advocacy services to **569** children;
- Support group/counseling services to **305** children;
- Education advocacy to **273** children; and
- Crisis intervention services to **205** children.

### WA • Grantee Perspective



The Queer Youth Project (QYP) Coordinator has been able to attend Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA) meetings, providing content requested by QSA youth and staff related to healthy relationships, safe sex and self-care planning, consent, as well as to provide other QYP resources to youth at the QSAs. The QYP was also able to create a club at Horizon Middle School, where there had not previously been one. The existence of QSAs on campuses improves outcomes for students who identify as LGBTQ, including in their victimization rates. Funding has also allowed the QYP to continue community training programs. Because of the Safe Futures grant, the Program Coordinator has offered “Queer Informed Care” trainings to 222 adults including Horizon Middle School teachers, Ferndale School District elementary teachers, Blaine High School teachers and Informing Families, a program of the Department of Social and Human Services, which serves people with developmental disabilities, a population that is disproportionately impacted by sexual violence. When those working directly with youth are centering the needs and voices of marginalized youth, they are more likely to reach out for help and support when they are harmed. This is especially important for queer youth who have been victimized, since they often experience additional isolation due to their identities.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES, WASHINGTON**

*Research increasingly indicates the need to understand youth violence in an integrated, non-siloed way. One such approach is the polyvictimization framework, which considers a web of violence, rather than individual, isolated experiences. This understanding leads to prevention and intervention approaches that are based on poly-strengths; in other words, an accounting of the many tools and resources children and families have available to them to build resiliency and to become and remain safe from harm (Hamby et al., 2018).*





A recent meta-analysis found that all forms of violence negatively impact educational outcomes for children. In particular, the study showed that those who experienced sexual violence during childhood scored 25 percentile points lower on standardized tests than those who had not experienced this form of violence and had a 14% probability of not graduating (Fry et al., 2018).



**NC • Grantee Perspective**

The CEV funding has allowed us to offer evidence-based treatment for victims, train professionals on the behavioral and psychosocial indicators of children exposed to violence in order to improve identification of victims, and to install a Parent Child Interaction Therapy lab to improve access to quality trauma-informed therapy for young children and their non-offending caregivers/parents. Animal-assisted therapy and trauma-sensitive yoga have been implemented to improve engagement for resistant child victims with Autism and/or highly traumatized children/youth. The CEV program funding has allowed four schools to improve teacher/administrator identification of children exposed to violence and has increased the ability within a school setting to identify and respond in a trauma-informed, supportive manner. School advocacy groups have provided prevention activities for all students and decreased the stigma of disclosing violence. We have expanded partnerships with Centro Comunitario to enhance services to children who are Latino, Black/African American, or speak Spanish in the rural community. We are continuing to strengthen the relationship with child protective services (CPS), including expanded parameters of CPS and how to improve the coordinated community response to children exposed to violence.

**30TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLIANCE, NORTH CAROLINA**



**UT • Grantee Perspective**

This funding has allowed our organizations to form an extremely strong partnership to provide meaningful, impactful, and successful services to youth experiencing violence. Prior to this funding, no schools in Cache County had a full-time therapist to provide services for youth. This funding has allowed us to have two therapists available to meet the needs of youth.

**CITIZENS AGAINST PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE, UTAH**

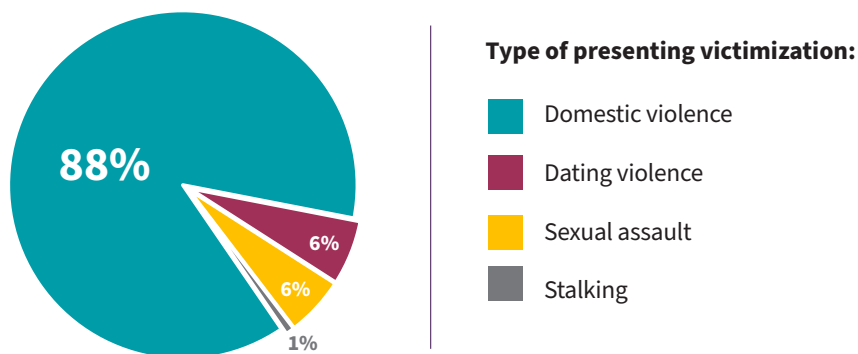
## Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence Seeking Services

Grantees serve children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of children served or partially served were indirectly exposed to **domestic violence** (88%).

**Figure 6** | Provision of services to children indirectly exposed to violence by CY Program grantees, by type of violence

**Children served and partially served by type of victimization** (6-month average)



**Table 3** | Children indirectly exposed to violence seeking services with CY grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Children seeking services	6-month average	
<b>Total children seeking services</b>	<b>820</b>	
Children served	774	94%
Children partially served	23	3%
Children not served	23	3%

**NOTE:** “Partially served” represents children who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant. “Not served” represents children who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the CY Program grant.

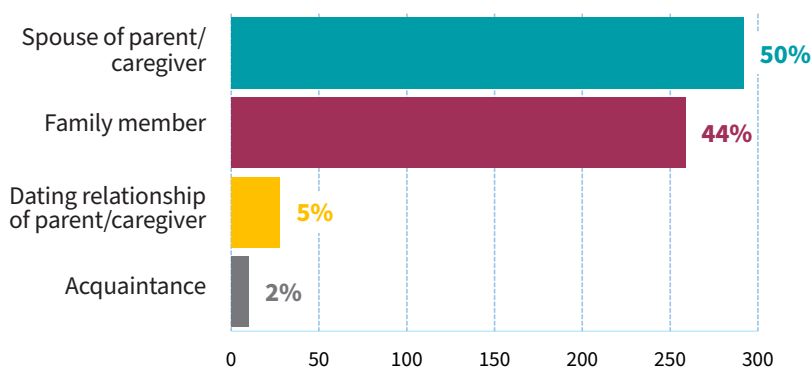
## Indirectly Exposed Children’s Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve children indirectly exposed to domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

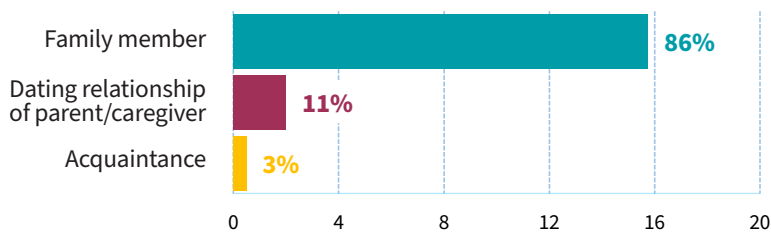
- The children most frequently served or partially served were indirectly exposed to violence by a **spouse or intimate partner of a parent/caregiver** (48%).
- The remaining children were most commonly exposed to violence by a **family member** (44%), or a **dating partner of the parent/caregiver** (5%).



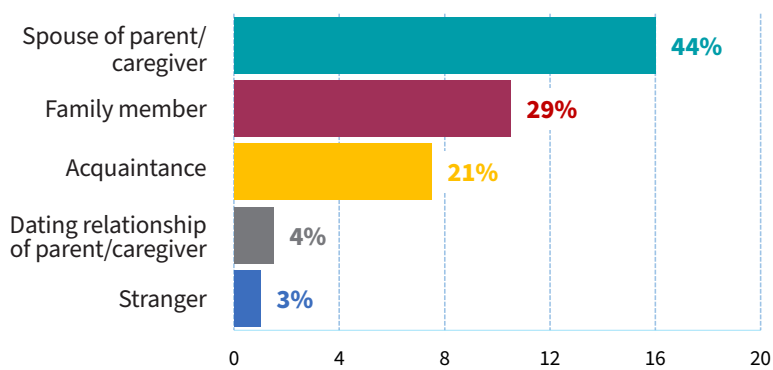
**Figure 7** Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender: **Domestic violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 8** Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender: **Dating violence** (6-month average)



**Figure 9** Type of indirect exposure by child’s relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)



NOTE: Numbers for relationship to offender were too small to compute for stalking victimizations.

## Reasons Children Indirectly Exposed to Violence Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During each reporting period, grantees noted the following barriers as reasons why children indirectly exposed to violence were not served or were only partially served:

- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources; or
- Program reached capacity.

### Tribal • Grantee Perspective



This grant opportunity has been crucial in the Washoe Tribe’s ability to interact with youth on a regular basis. Prior to receiving this grant, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking were not discussed in the community, especially with youth. Domestic violence was a taboo subject for most community members. Through this grant, we have been able to reach out to all four Washoe Communities and bring awareness to the realities of violence within the communities. This grant has allowed the Washoe Tribe to have access to educational presentations, staff training, and a continuous source of support. The grant has also allowed the Washoe Tribe to begin the Sons of Tradition Program that will continue to run even after the grant award is over. The Sons of Tradition Program has offered a safe space for many young men and older men to speak about subjects that they may not be able to speak about in their homes. The talking circle has long been a tradition of the Washoe Tribe and continuing the tradition has gotten positive reviews. The Sons of Tradition Program has also allowed the Washoe EMAB Program, and its partner, Cultural Resources, to utilize culture as a means of violence prevention.

WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA

### NY • Grantee Perspective



The Justice and Empowerment for Teens program (JET) is innovating to reduce barriers to services for survivors by creating a variety of ways through which to engage youth. CEV funding enabled JET to develop the Thriving Programming that will roll out in September 2018 with creative writing and art workshops for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Over the course of the year, these workshops will expand to include workshops on Muay Thai, cooking and nutrition, and yoga. This programming is a promising practice that we believe will enable us to engage survivors who are not ready to enter counseling. CEV funding is enabling JET to meet with Survivor Leaders from NYC and Seattle. With CEV funding, JET is able to prioritize survivor knowledge and leadership in the process of developing engaging programming for JET clients. Survivor Leaders are providing consultation and assisting JET staff as they integrate Survivor Advocates into JET programming, creating pathways to leadership for JET clients.

SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES, INC., NEW YORK



A recent survey of more than 18,000 culturally diverse high school students found that more than a quarter of gender minority students had experienced sexual or dating violence or made a suicide attempt in the past year, compared with fewer than one in ten cisgender students. Gender minority students also reported receiving significantly less school, peer, community, and family support. The study found that school, peer, and family support were correlated to lower rates of violence and self-harm for all students; however gender minority youth may need particular forms of support in order to overcome the extremely elevated risks they face (Ross-Reed et al., 2019).



#### NY • Grantee Perspective

African-American boys and LGBTQ youth have not been targeted with comprehensive domestic and sexual violence prevention and intervention services in a sustained, meaningful way. Prevention services in particular are often not directed to these groups. This project targets young African-American boys in the City of Syracuse and LGBTQ youth in Onondaga County with culturally-relevant, accessible prevention and intervention services, and will engage men as active partners in efforts to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. According to Farah Tanis, co-Founder of the Black Women's Health Blueprint, domestic and sexual abuse in the Black community often goes ignored, and the problem is only getting worse. In developing prevention services for LGBTQ youth, we have not found services that address the particular needs of the community. This funding has allowed us to conduct focus groups and develop core prevention programming which places these youth at the center. We see our efforts as amplifying their voices with creative programming that is developed by them and for them. This funding is especially necessary because it provides a way to address these issues in a culturally specific way.

VERA HOUSE, NEW YORK

## Demographics of Children Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **1,095** child victims and **797** children indirectly exposed to violence during each 6-month period. The child victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (50%), **female** (79%), and between the ages of **13 and 17** (47%). Children indirectly exposed to violence were most frequently **white** (37%), **male** (52%), and between the ages of **0 and 12** (64%).

**Table 4**

Demographic characteristics of children served with CY grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Characteristic	6-month average			
	Child victims		Children indirectly exposed	
	N	%	N	%
<b>Race</b>				
American Indian or Alaska Native	32	3%	39	5%
Asian	21	2%	35	5%
Black or African American	207	21%	161	22%
Hispanic or Latino	233	24%	244	33%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9	1%	3	< 1%
White	492	50%	275	37%
Unknown (missing)	111		51	
<b>Gender</b>				
Female	782	79%	363	48%
Male	213	21%	399	52%
Total	1,095		797	
Unknown (missing)	100		36	
<b>Age</b>				
0–12	131	13%	488	64%
13–17	457	47%	241	32%
18–24	384	39%	31	4%
Total	1,095		797	
Unknown (missing)	123		37	
<b>Other</b>				
Children with disabilities	92	8%	26	3%
Children who are Deaf or hard of hearing	2	< 1%	3	< 1%
Children with limited English proficiency	35	3%	14	2%
Children who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	60	5%	29	4%
Children who live in rural areas	212	19%	136	17%
Children who are homeless/runaways	186	17%	113	14%
Children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex	256	23%	18	2%
Children with mental health issues	315	29%	95	12%

## Support Services and Referrals for Non-Abusing Parents/Caregivers

In addition to services for children, grantees provide support services and referrals to non-abusing parents/caregivers of child victims and children indirectly exposed to violence. Grantees may either provide these services directly, or refer parents to other agencies.

- Grantees provided support services to an average of **421** non-abusing parents/caregivers.
- Grantees provided referrals to an average of **341** non-abusing parents/caregivers.

### **During each 6-month period, grantees provided the following services and/or referrals to non-abusing parents/caregivers:**

- Advocacy services;
- Parent education services; and
- Support group/counseling services.

## Shelter Services

Grantees provided emergency housing to an average of **55** non-abusing parents/caregivers and **81** accompanying family members for a total of **11,661** bed nights.

## Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees expressed a need for **increased education and outreach to youth and families** along with the need for **greater prevention and intervention programming**, specifically:

- Early prevention education for elementary and middle school students;
- Healthy masculinity programming for men and boys;
- Information for parents and guardians on healthy relationships, violence prevention, and ways to discuss violence and sexual abuse with their children; and
- Education regarding victims' rights.

Grantees also noted the need for **additional training for service providers and those who work with young people**, including:

- Training for teachers and school personnel to identify signs of exposure to violence and make appropriate referrals;
- Strategies for addressing inconsistencies among service providers' understandings of mandated reporting requirements; and
- Training for teachers and school personnel on understanding trauma-informed practices.

*Early identification and intervention by health care providers and mental health professionals can support families in breaking intergenerational cycles of violence (Cohodes et al., 2016; World Health Organization, 2017; McFarlane et al., 2017; Montalvo-Liendo et al., 2015; Turner, et al., 2017).*



### **CA • Grantee Perspective**



One of the biggest accomplishments of this project has been the creation of In This Together (ITT), a clinical group therapy program for children (ages 0-18) exposed to domestic/dating violence and their non-abusing parents. In this and previous periods, therapy has been provided to survivor parents and their children through multi-family group therapy. To increase accessibility for victims in isolated/remote areas of Marin County (West Marin and Southern Marin), the Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) also launched a bilingual mobile clinical team to provide therapy upon request in these areas, decreasing the need for the survivors to travel to C4DP's centrally-located offices (which they do not have the resources to do) and increasing their access to therapy in a safe, private setting. With OWW funds, C4DP has taken a pilot program with little marketing and grown it into a thriving therapeutic model that includes both group and individual therapy for high-need and underserved populations. Over the course of the entire grant, 412 domestic/dating violence survivors (246 children and 166 adults) participated in ITT group therapy, and in the last two reporting periods, 30 parents with 48 children have participated in individual therapy.

**HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA**

### **CT • Grantee Perspective**



We are always challenged by the ambivalence that some men and boys have about taking a stand against domestic violence. It is not that they believe it is acceptable to be violent, so their silence need not be framed as a lack of awareness or a lack of empathy. We've heard men say that they don't know what to say or how to act. We've heard men express concerns they might get attacked, or this is a "no-win situation." We've heard that men who are silent may feel there is a high risk of misspeaking. Creating a community free of domestic violence requires continual information-sharing and dialogue. Through our technical assistance providers at Men Can Stop Rape, we have learned some techniques on how to get men and boys to open up so they won't feel the backlash of societal pressure to remain silent.

**CONNECTICUT COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



### WA • Grantee Perspective

It is notable that many of the members of our targeted rural communities face a number of overwhelming needs such as housing instability, lack of transportation, substance use disorder, mental health issues, and poverty. While Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Services works to address the complex needs of survivors by providing information and resources, many of our rural clients face barriers since they often are only provided in Bellingham, which can be difficult to access without reliable transportation, time, and money for gas. Survivors in these regions tend to be more isolated and services are not always accessible. The partnerships with schools have created some leverage for accessibility, but there are still barriers and progress seems slow at times. In these more insular communities, the cultures can be protective and leery of outsiders. It has taken a significant amount of time and resources to build relationships and trust to be able to create more accessible services for these families.

**BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION ON SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WASHINGTON**

Many grantees also mentioned the importance of **meeting the basic needs of young victims**, particularly surrounding **transportation, emergency and long-term affordable housing, and mental health services**.

Finally, grantees noted that **service providers face additional challenges when working with underserved populations**, particularly:

- Rural youth;
- LGBTQ youth;
- Immigrant and refugee communities; and
- English language learners.