



Request for Sub-Award Applications

The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA) will be the lead applicant on an OVW Fiscal Year 2017 Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program Grant and is seeking project partners to receive sub-awards to implement project activities. This project will continue the work done through the Sexual Assault Response Project (SARP) administered by the Colorado Division of Justice, Office for Victims Programs (OVP) to support Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs).

Additional Information

Any updates or additional information pertaining to this RFA will be posted to:

<http://www.ccasa.org/event/request-for-sub-award-applications/>

For questions regarding this solicitation, please contact: Brie Franklin, Executive Director, 303-839-0029 or brie@ccasa.org.

Deadline

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on Monday, December 19, 2016.

A. Project Description

About the OVW Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program

This program is authorized by 42 U.S.C. §§ 3796hh–3796hh-4. Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program) also known as the Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (Arrest Program) is designed to encourage partnerships between state, local, and tribal governments, courts, victim service providers, coalitions and rape crisis centers, to ensure that sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are treated as serious violations of criminal law requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system and community-based victim service organizations. The Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program challenges the community to work collaboratively to identify problems, and share ideas that will result in new responses to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

For additional information on the Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program, including what past Arrest Program grantees have accomplished with their grant funds and to view the Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program performance measures, see <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/vawamei/cdsarrestmain.htm>.

Statutory Purpose Area to be Addressed by this Project

- Develop, implement, or enhance Sexual Assault Response Teams or similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.

OVW Priority Areas to be Addressed by this Project

- Strengthen and revitalize coordinated community response and multi-disciplinary teams, prioritizing those that meaningfully involve organizations and programs that focus on marginalized communities;
- Increase support for sexual assault, including services, law enforcement response and prosecution;
- Meaningfully increase access to OVW programming for specific underserved populations (based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, etc.);
- Increase the use of promising or evidence-building practices, where available; and
- Integrate principles outlined in recent Department of Justice guidance on [‘Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence’](#) into policies, training, and supervisions protocols and systems of accountability.

Statutory Priorities to be Addressed by this Project

By statute, 42 U.S.C. § 3796hh-1(b), when making Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program awards priority should be given to applicants that:

- Do not currently provide for centralized handling of cases involving sexual assault by police, prosecutors, and courts;
- Demonstrate a commitment to strong enforcement of laws, and prosecution of cases, involving sexual assault, including the enforcement of protection orders from other states and jurisdictions, including tribal jurisdictions; and
- Have established cooperative agreements or can demonstrate effective ongoing collaborative arrangements with neighboring jurisdictions to facilitate the enforcement of protection orders from other states and jurisdictions, including tribal jurisdictions.

Mandatory Partnerships

A foundational aspect of the Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program is that an effective response to sexual assault begins with coordination of the public and private agencies that play a role in providing for victim safety and offender accountability. To ensure that the limited project funds are going to jurisdictions ready to employ a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), CCASA requires that each applicant develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with its project partners.

Project partners must include, at a minimum, a:

- district attorney’s office;
- local law enforcement department (police and/or sheriff);
- medical professional/facility that can provide medical forensic exams; and
- victim service provider.*

Projects may also want to include the following partners:

- Indian tribal governments
- universities and colleges
- probation departments
- sex offender treatment providers

*Victim service provider partners should meet all of the following criteria:

1. Provide services to victims of sexual assault as one of their primary purposes and have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field;
2. Address a demonstrated need in their communities by providing services that promote the dignity and self-sufficiency of victims, improve their access to resources, and create options for victims; and
3. Do not engage in or promote activities that compromise victim safety.

In developing an application for the Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program, applicants are encouraged to consider some important distinctions among the following potential partners:

1. Victim assistants or victim witness specialists who work for government agencies (e.g., the police department or the district or city attorney's office);
2. Advocates employed by nonprofit, nongovernmental sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking programs (e.g., shelters, rape crisis centers, advocacy groups or coalitions); and
3. Legal representatives (e.g., students from law school clinics, paralegals, attorneys working for legal service agencies or independent attorneys).

There is an important role for all advocates to play in the creation of a coordinated community response. However, given the unique role that nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocates play in representing the needs of survivors, nonprofit, nongovernmental providers must be involved in the development and implementation of projects receiving Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program funds to ensure that victim safety remains central throughout the project. This does not preclude applicants from requesting support for governmental victim service providers, but the budget and budget narrative must distinguish between these roles and should include compensation for the contributions of nonprofit, nongovernmental victim service providers.

Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery

The following activities have been found to jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions:

1. Procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or gender of their children;
2. Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services;
3. Automatic pre-trial diversion programs;
4. Mediation or counseling for couples as a systemic response to domestic violence;

5. Operating domestic violence batterer intervention programs that are not court-ordered or court-monitored;
6. Utilizing anger management classes instead of court-ordered batterer intervention programs;
7. Requiring victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking to file for a protection order or file criminal charges against their abusers as a condition of receiving services;
8. Procedures that would penalize victims of violence for failing to testify against their abusers or impose other sanctions on victims. Instead, procedures that provide victims with the opportunity to make an informed choice about whether to testify are encouraged; and
9. Procedures that indicate criminal record background checks, including checks of public court databases, are performed on individuals presenting for counseling or advocacy services prior to providing those individuals with services.

B. Sub-Award Information

Availability of Funds

Sub-award funding is contingent upon CCASA receiving an award from OVW through the Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program. All awards and sub-awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. There is no guarantee that funds will be available in the future. Therefore, OVW and CCASA encourage applicants to develop a plan to sustain project activities if federal funding through the Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program ceases to be available. Also, please note that OVW and CCASA may elect to make awards and sub-awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, depending on the merits of the applications and on the availability of funding.

Sub-Award Period

The grant award period is 36 months. Budgets must reflect 36 months of project activity, and the total requested funding must reflect 36 months. The sub-award period is anticipated to start on October 1, 2017.

Sub-Award Amounts

CCASA anticipates making up to six (6) sub-awards in the range of \$90,000-\$120,000 each. CCASA has the discretion to make sub-awards for greater or lesser amounts than amount requested and to negotiate the scope of work and budget with applicants prior to award of a grant.

Sub-Award Announcement

It is anticipated that all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by January 31, 2017. Selected applicants will be invited to participate as project partners on CCASA's application for a OVW Fiscal Year 2017 Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program Grant.

C. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

It is very important that applicants review this information carefully. Applications that are submitted by ineligible entities or that do not meet all program and project eligibility requirements will not be considered for funding.

Eligible entities for sub-awards on this project are:

- Sexual assault and dual sexual assault/domestic violence victim service providers¹ (either nonprofit or tribal government);
- Indian tribal governments;
- Police departments;
- Sheriffs' departments;
- District or city attorney's offices; and
- Units of local government.

Certification of Eligibility

Tribal governments, police departments, sheriff's departments, district or city attorney's offices, and units of local government must:

1. certify that their laws or official policies—
 - a) encourage or mandate arrests of domestic violence offenders based on probable cause that an offense has been committed; and
 - b) encourage or mandate arrest of domestic violence offenders who violate the terms of a valid and outstanding protection order;
2. demonstrate that their laws, policies, or practices and their training programs discourage dual arrests of offender and victim;
3. certify that their laws, policies, or practices prohibit issuance of mutual restraining orders of protection except in cases where both parties file a claim and the court makes detailed findings of fact indicating that both parties acted primarily as aggressors and that neither party acted primarily in self-defense;
4. certify that their laws, policies, and practices do not require, in connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking offense, or in connection with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, or service of a protection order, or a petition for a protection order, to protect a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, that the victim bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against the offender, or the costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal or service of a warrant, protection order, petition for a protection order, or witness subpoena, whether issued inside or outside the state, tribal, or local jurisdiction;
5. certify that their laws, policies or practices ensure that—

¹ A victim service provider means a nonprofit, nongovernmental or tribal organization or rape crisis center that assists or advocates for sexual assault, including culturally-specific, faith-based, and other organizations, with a documented history of effective work concerning sexual assault.

- a) no law enforcement officer, prosecuting officer or other government official shall ask or require an adult, youth, or child victim of a sex offense as defined under federal, tribal, state, territorial, or local law to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for such an offense; and
 - b) the refusal of a victim to submit to an examination described in subparagraph shall not prevent the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for the offense; and
6. CCASA requires that project partners commit to working with CCASA to develop a plan to provide meaningful access to services for all populations within their service area.

E. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a team comprised of five reviewers, including two staff from each CCASA and OVP as well as one additional member, and will be based on the criteria outlined in this solicitation.

E. Submission Dates and Times

It is very important that all applicants read this section carefully. Applicants that do not complete all the steps in registering and submitting their application by the due date will not be considered for funding. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their applications are complete at the time of submission. CCASA will not contact applicants for missing items. Applicants should anticipate that failure to meet all registration and submission deadlines will result in their application being removed from consideration. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is submitted by the deadline.

The deadline for submitting applications in response to this solicitation is **11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on Monday, December 19, 2016**. Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on Monday, December 19, 2016 will not be considered for funding.

How to Submit Applications

One (1) copy of the complete application can be submitted by:

- Emailing to: info@ccasa.org (successfully received emails will receive an automated response)
- Faxing to: 303-839-0019
- Mailing to (applications must be received by the end of business day at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2016):

CCASA
PO Box 40350
Denver, CO 80204

- Physically delivering to (applications must be received by the end of business day at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2016):

CCASA
1330 Fox Street
Denver, CO 80204