**Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

**Support Services for Sexual Assault Survivors**

**Application #437003-G22-0001955**

Released December 28, 2021

To be returned to DCF via email address DCFDSPDomesticAbuse@wisconsin.gov

no later than 11:59 pm on January 18, 2022

We are pleased to announce that the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), has issued to states a historic investment for rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs to support sexual assault survivors impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Background**

Wisconsin has received $2,820,665 in supplemental FVPSA funds to support survivors of sexual assault. The purpose of the FVPSA Sexual Assault Grant to support survivors of sexual assault is to:

1. assist with the transition to virtual/remote services for rape crisis centers, sexual assault programs, tribal programs, and culturally specific programs that provide crisis services, support services, and assistance to survivors of sexual assault, and;
2. support the increased emergency needs of sexual assault survivors as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Eligible Applicants**

Eligible agencies may be a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal organization, or governmental entity in a state other than a territory that provides intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault without regard to their age. In the case of a governmental entity, the entity may not be part of the criminal justice system (such as a law enforcement agency) and must be able to offer a comparable level of confidentiality as a nonprofit entity that provides similar victim services. Intervention and related assistance may include:

* 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referral.
* Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice, and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings.
* Crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and family or household members.
* Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim and family or household members. Community-based, culturally specific services and support mechanisms, including outreach activities for underserved communities.
* Development and distribution of materials on issues related to the services described above.

Eligible agencies may include dual domestic violence/sexual assault programs and stand-alone sexual assault programs.

If your program is not a current recipient of DCF funding, please complete the attached new supplier documents and return with your application.

**Distribution and Allocation**

Feedback from local stand-alone sexual assault and dual domestic violence/sexual assault programs have made it clear that *all* programs and the survivors they serve have been impacted somehow by the COVID-19 pandemic and can benefit from additional funds. Funds will be distributed using a two-part application process which includes additional dissemination of funds to stand-alone sexual assault programs who have not received prior federal stimulus funding.

**Part A: Application for FVPSA Sexual Assault Grant (Up to $20,000 per Agency)**

All dual domestic violence/sexual assault and stand-alone sexual assault agencies that meet the definition described above, including tribal programs, are eligible to receive up to $20,000 in FVPSA sexual assault funds. Programs will complete an application and budget workbook to request these funds.

**Part B: Application for Additional FVPSA Sexual Assault Grant (up to $15,400 per Agency)**

Any stand-alone sexual assault program or dual domestic violence/sexual assault program that did not receive funding through FVPSA CARES funds (contract #437003-G21-0001620) may request a maximum of $15,400 *in addition* to the $20,000 that all programs will receive. Programs will complete an application and budget workbook to request these funds.

*Please see Appendix A for a list of programs that have received previous FVPSA CARES funding.*

Applications for the FVPSA Sexual Assault Grants will be reviewed and evaluated by DCF Domestic Abuse staff and contracts awarded as follows:

**Part A: All applicants meeting the requirements indicated in this application will be awarded a contract not to exceed $20,000 for Part A.**

**Part B: All applications will be evaluated, scored, and the highest scoring applicants awarded a contract not to exceed $15,400 for Part B.** Criteria will include assessing the level of need, and plans to use the funds effectively.

**Please Note**: As these funds are time-limited, please thoughtfully assess your capacity to use the available funds within the allotted time-period for allowable purposes. An eligible agency may apply for less than the maximum amount for either Part A or Part B. All funding will be distributed as part of this procurement process.

**Allowable Uses of Funds**

FVPSA guidance states that these funds can be used to support sexual assault survivors through the operation and administration of supportive services, including, but not limited to:

* Staffing, including hazard pay;
* Utilities;
* Rental costs of facility;
* Advocacy, case management, and information and referral services;
* Direct crisis intervention services, including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, peer support, and in-person assistance;
* Supplies, equipment, and software to assist in carrying out remote services;
* Outreach to underserved populations to increase access to sexual assault services and reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19;
* Costs associated with SANE exams, including transportation;
* Shelter services, including hotel/motel vouchers;
* Food, clothing and toiletries, etc. for shelter and outreach;
* Supplies for the shelter, including supplies for survivors entering shelter;
* Transportation, including cab, bus and gas cards;
* Developing and carrying out safety plans;
* Individual and group counseling and peer support groups;
* Provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services;
* Services for children exposed to sexual assault;
* Training, technical assistance, prevention, and outreach to increase awareness of sexual and dating violence.

The following are ineligible costs:

* Direct payment to survivors;\*
* Construction costs;
* Renovation costs;
* Sole purchase or lease of automobiles.

\*Payments to a landlord or a vendor (e.g., for nominal relocation costs, etc.) *on behalf of a survivor* are allowable.

FVPSA Sexual Assault Grant funds must be used to supplement and not supplant other, federal, state, and local public funds in accordance with 42 U.S.C. **§** 10406(c)(6).

***Please reach out to your DCF contract administrator with any questions about allowable uses of these funds.***

**Matching Funds**

There is no requirement for matching funds on the FVPSA sexual assault dollars.

**Period in Which Funds Must Be Used**

The project period for this supplemental funding is February 23, 2022 through September 30, 2024.

**Application**

An application for both Part A and Part B funds is attached. Submit the completed application to DCFDSPDomesticAbuse@wisconsin.gov by January 18, 2022, 11:59 p.m.

Awarded programs will be notified of the status of their application by February 23, 2022.

**Contracts**

Awarded programs will be issued a contract, which will identify one SPARC code on which to report expenditures for Part A funds; programs awarded Part B funds will receive another SPARC code for those expenditures. The contract period will be February 23, 2022 – September 30, 2024.

**Program Reporting**

Awarded programs will be required to submit a performance progress report. The format and due date will be provided at a later date.

**Questions?**

Please contact your contract administrator or DCFDSPDomesticAbuse@wisconsin.gov with any questions.