



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

Sexual Assault Services Program

Funding authorized: \$40 million
FY 2016 Appropriation: \$35 million
FY 2018 Request: \$40 million

“By providing for survivors and helping them heal we reduce trauma and dependency on drugs/alcohol, homelessness, unemployment...supporting these services prevents people from needing costly interventions...” Rape Crisis Center Director, 2016 survey

Sexual Assault Victims Deserve Recovery Services.

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in the U.S. Department of Justice, was authorized in 2005 through the Violence Against Women Act as the first federal funding stream dedicated to the provision of direct services to victims of sexual violence. According to OVW’s most recent report to Congress on the SASP program:

- **40,000 survivors received services through SASP in one year;**
- 200 advocates and counselors were funded at local programs; and
- 60,000 hotline calls were answered.

“So much healing came with every session until I felt strong again.” A survivor in Florida, 2015

Across the country, SASP funds support the critical services victims need most.

SASP funds support services in every state.

Formula grants are awarded to states, territories and tribes to support efforts to provide services to adult and minor sexual assault victims and their families. Grants can be used for critically important intervention and advocacy services, especially accompaniment through medical and criminal justice systems.

SASP funds support underserved

communities. Grants to culturally specific organizations help support intervention and related assistance for underserved victims and communities of color like *United Somali Women of Maine* and the *Hmong American Women’s Association* in Milwaukee.

SASP funds ensure quality services. Through support of coalitions which provide training and technical assistance, SASP helps ensure that victims receive high quality services and improved responses from the justice system.

Research shows these services increase prosecution and help victims recover.

Advocates help the criminal justice system respond better. Research shows that when victims receive advocate-assisted services following assaults, they receive more helpful information, referrals and services and experience less secondary trauma or re-victimization by medical and legal systems.

Rape survivors supported by advocates were 59% more likely to have police reports taken than survivors without advocates, whose reports were only taken 41% of the time.

Advocates help victims heal. When advocates are present in the legal and medical proceedings following rape, victims fare better in both the short- and long-term recovery, experiencing less psychological distress, physical health struggles, sexual risk-taking behaviors, self-blame, guilt, and depression.

“SASP allowed us to finally open a comprehensive service rape crisis center in Dallas.” Jana Barker, Executive Director, Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center

The Need is great.

According to 2010 data from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (CDC, December 2011):

- Nearly 1 in 5 women have been the victim of rape or attempted rape;
- Nearly 1 in 2 women have experienced some form of sexual violence;
- 1.3 million women were raped in the United States in the last 12 months; and

- 1 in 5 men have experienced a form of sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime.

Victims of sexual assault suffer. They are more likely to struggle professionally, academically and from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and to contemplate suicide.

Current funding levels are inadequate. At FY 2016 levels, the entire state of Alabama received \$411,000 in SASP formula grant funds while Texas, with the second largest grant award, received \$1.1 million.

Rape crisis centers struggle. The nation’s 1,315 sexual assault programs often lack the resources to meet victims’ most basic needs. Attention to campus and military sexual assault as well as high profile cases has meant more victims have come forward needing recovery services. According to a 2015 survey by NAESV:

- Over 100 advocates were laid off or positions were left unfilled due to funding shortfalls.
- **Over one-half of rape crisis centers have a waiting list for counseling services.**

“In the three years since our agency became the local certified rape crisis center for our area of approximately 265,000 residents, and a high spring break and military population, we have ...Our advocates caseloads have tripled.” Rape Crisis Center Director, 2016 survey

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact Terri Poore, Policy Director at terri@endsexualviolence.org.