



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE)

FY 21 Appropriation: \$51.75 million

FY 22 Appropriation: \$56.75 million

FY 23 Appropriations Request: \$101.75 million

Ensure involvement of and funding for state sexual assault coalitions

“Our prevention education and outreach education programming has thrived this past year by utilizing social media to create and share engaging informational campaigns and for providing e-platforms via Zoom to train educators and professionals on how to respond to disclosures and counters the culture that promotes sexual violence to one that values consent, communication, boundaries, conversations about gender norms and sexuality, and healthy relationships.”— A Maine advocate

The #MeToo movement; national focus on sexual assault on campuses, in the military and faith communities; and high-profile cases of sexual violence in the media have led to increased interest in comprehensive community responses to sexual violence but have also increased the demand for prevention programs beyond providers’ capacities.

A 2021 survey by the NAESV revealed that 76% of programs saw an increased demand for services while 68% of programs reporting reduced service hours said this fell in the areas of public education/prevention.

RPE formula grants, administered by the CDC Injury Center, provide essential funding to states and territories to support rape prevention and education programs conducted by rape crisis centers, state sexual assault coalitions, and other public and private nonprofit entities.

Those who have been victimized by sexual violence are more likely to be re-victimized AND those who have perpetrated are more likely to reoffend, pointing to the increased need to stop the violence before it ever happens.

If our children are to face a future free from sexual violence, RPE must increase significantly.

The RPE program prepares everyday people to become heroes, getting involved in the fight against sexual violence and creating safer communities by:

- Engaging boys and men as partners;
- Supporting multidisciplinary research collaborations;
- Fostering cross-cultural approaches to prevention; and
- Promoting healthy, non-violent social norms, attitudes, and policies.

NAESV supports language in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to increase the authorization of RPE and ensure expert, funded involvement of state sexual assault coalitions in RPE planning and implementation.

Preventing sexual violence requires the full participation of state sexual assault coalitions who conceived, developed, and advocate for the RPE program.

State sexual assault coalitions have specific expertise, experience and resources related to the prevention of sexual assault and want to work in partnership with state public health officials.

Why increase funding for RPE?

According to the [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#) 1 in 5 women were victim of a completed or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime.

The societal costs of sexual violence are incredibly high including medical & mental health care, law enforcement response, & lost productivity. 2017 research sets the lifetime economic burden of rape at \$122,000 per victim and reveals a strong link between sexual violence and chronic disease.

We know RPE is working.

A 2016 study conducted in 26 Kentucky high schools over 5 years and published in *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* found that an RPE-funded bystander intervention program decreased not only sexual violence perpetration but also other forms of interpersonal violence and victimization.

“The idea that, due to the effectiveness of Green Dot, ... there will be many fewer young people suffering the pain and devastation of sexual violence: This is priceless.” Eileen Recktenwald, former director of the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs

Across the country, states and communities are engaged in cutting-edge prevention projects.

“More parents participated in our online parent preview of education programs for their children than ever before.” – a Pennsylvania program

“When we are staffed with a full-time coordinator, the program flourishes and can generate interest and excitement around bystander intervention and prevention efforts. There is someone to spend time getting to know our students, faculty, and staff, building vital relationships.” – a Missouri program

Alaska’s Talk Now Talk Often campaign is a statewide effort developed in collaboration with Alaskan parents, using conversation cards, to help increase conversations with teens about the importance of having healthy relationships.

Connecticut’s Women & Families Center developed a multi-session curriculum addressing issues of violence and injury targeting middle school students.

Kansas is looking closely at the links between sexual violence and chronic disease to prevent both.

North Carolina was able to ensure sustainability of its consent-based curriculum by partnering with the school system to implement their sexual violence prevention curriculum in **every 8th** grade class.

Texas is focusing on implementing community-level strategies mobilizing men and boys as allies, and strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls utilizing the following programs: *Be Strong: From the Inside Out*; *Bringing in the Bystander*; *Coaching Men Into Boys*; *Close to Home*; and *Mentors in Violence Prevention*.

Vermont’s Askable Adults resources help adults deepen connections with children and youth and offer the support youth want and need, growing protective factors that reduce sexual harm in the lives of youth.

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

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