



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE)

FY 23 Appropriation: \$61.75

FY 24 Appropriation: TBD

FY 25 Appropriations Request: \$100 million

“We completed our first round of Redefine Parenting workshops at three local elementary schools, and they were a huge success! Parents left each session asking for more programming, and some said they were going to speak to their principals about bringing in more classroom programming like consent lessons for K-6 graders.” –California Prevention Program

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.

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 2023 survey by the NAESV revealed that 70% of programs saw an increased demand for services while 2/3 of programs reporting reduced service hours said this fell in the areas of public education/prevention.

“Mrs.K-----, I wanted to tell you that I appreciate you setting these things up for us. These presentations but especially this one opened my eyes to how I can help others. I just wanted to say I appreciate you teaching us about these tough topics. Beforehand I wouldn't have known warning behaviors or even how to help.” Student in a New York prevention workshop

Victims of 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 actively engaged and 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 supported language included in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to ensure the 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 originally 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.

“A 7th grader who received our programs on boundaries and consent signed up to speak with the SASSMM advocate about some ongoing, uncomfortable experiences of boundary crossing from a family member that the advocate was able to identify as potential sexual abuse. Our in-class discussions about boundaries, as well as the student’s utilization of our anonymous question system, were both pivotal in the student’s ability to verbalize the issue and realize that it was appropriate to seek help. The student was looking to take next steps and accepted the advocate’s offer to help her tell a parent about what had been going on. The advocate was able to connect the family to legal resources, have the student seen at a Children’s Advocacy Center, as well as provide ongoing support to the family even after the teaching period had concluded.” –Maine Prevention 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 Prevention Educator

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.

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