

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

FY24 Appropriation: \$78.5 million

FY25 Appropriation: \$78.5 million

Authorized at: \$100 million

FY26 Request: \$100 million

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.

I don't think people understand what that means when someone tells a survivor that they believe you. To hear those words mean EVERYTHING. I can't express what it means to have an advocate, I hope that she knows the impact she has on people's lives because she has saved mine.

Survivor at a Kansas Rape Crisis Center

Rape crisis centers struggle. The nation's 1,000 sexual assault programs often lack the resources to meet victims' most basic needs. National attention to the problem of sexual assault, in addition to conditions created by the COVID pandemic, has meant more victims have come forward seeking recovery services. According to a 2024 survey by NAESV:

- 58% of programs saw an increased demand for services.
- 20% of rape crisis centers had a waiting list for trauma-informed therapy; 16% have a waiting list for support groups.
- 43% of programs experienced a reduction in staffing.
- 61% of programs lack a full time mental health counselor or therapist on staff.

THE NEED IS GREAT

According to a 2022 report from [the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#): 26.8% of women and 3% of men have experienced a completed or attempted 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.

The need is greater than our capacity to meet it.

Maine Rape Crisis Center

Current funding levels are inadequate. As an example, in FY24, the states of Kansas, Kentucky, and Maryland each received less than \$1 million to serve the entire state, leaving service providers struggling to meet the growing needs of victims.

If it was not for the ladies at the local rape crisis center, I never would have got the help I needed. The free services provided by the RCC have helped more individuals reach out to help with trauma related issues. The advocate was a lifesaver in helping me navigate through the whole process.

Survivor at a Kentucky Rape Crisis Center

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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 culturally specific organizations. Grants support intervention and related assistance for communities of color by organizations like the 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 and medical systems.

Therapy, book studies, storytelling workshops, empowerment activities, peer support groups and group therapy are some of the many things I've participated in. They have helped me become more confident, not be afraid to share my thoughts and feelings, given me the strength to advocate for myself, and helped me feel a sense of community.

Survivor at a North Carolina Rape Crisis Center

ADVOCATES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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 victims supported by advocates were 59% more likely to have police reports taken than victims 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 short- and long-term recovery, experiencing less

- psychological distress
- physical health struggles
- sexual risk-taking behaviors
- self-blame
- guilt
- depression

I am no longer the person I was when I walked through those doors. Because of the tools I received, I am continually overcoming obstacles. My future is brighter than my past...I am grateful for the way you made me feel like I was the only client you had. I felt seen.

Survivor at an Illinois Rape Crisis Center

Congress can be an essential part of the solution by increasing appropriations for the Sexual Assault Services Program to \$100 million.

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
Contact Terri Poore, Policy Director at terri@endsexualviolence.org