

Rape Crisis Services, Partnerships, & Resources at the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS), Health and Human Services



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

FY27 Request: Provide \$100 million to the OFVPS for sexual assault services provided by rape crisis centers, building community partnerships between sexual assault programs and behavioral health systems, and national sexual assault resource centers.

RAPE CRISIS SERVICES ARE HEALING SERVICES

According to the 2023/2024 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey:

- **Nearly half of women** (45.1%) in the United States experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes, with 21.0% reporting completed or attempted rape.
- **More than 1 in 6 men** (16.9%) in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes, with 3.2% reporting completed or attempted rape.

While significant investments have been made to improve the criminal justice response to victims, similar efforts are needed to build partnerships between sexual assault programs and health and human services agencies at the local, state, and national level. Victims accessing community health, mental health, substance use treatment, and housing need connections to healing services and providers need training in responding to those victims.

Funding is needed to strengthen healing services at Rape Crisis Centers and for a new demonstration project to provide discretionary grants to a geographically diverse group of community based sexual assault programs, culturally specific, and tribal programs. The project will enhance partnerships and healthcare systems advocacy for adult victims of childhood sexual abuse and sexual assault victims, increase program capacity at HHS, and provide robust technical assistance support.

This funding will ensure that victims have access to trauma-informed, survivor-centered care by strengthening collaboration between sexual assault programs and healthcare providers. By integrating advocacy services into healthcare settings, this initiative will improve early intervention, increase access to specialized support, and enhance the overall response to victims' unique needs.

SEXUAL ASSAULT & HEALTH ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED

The short- and long-term effects of sexual violence can undermine a person's physical and mental health.

- Based on an analysis of studies from 1980-2008, victims of sexual violence have a significantly higher prevalence of anxiety, depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide attempts.
- According to the 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), victims of sexual violence are more likely to suffer from asthma and joint conditions. Studies have also found an increased risk of cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases.

- Among both women and men, previous non-consensual sex was associated with health conditions such as high cholesterol, stroke and heart disease while sexually victimized women were more likely to report having had a heart attack or heart disease than non-victims.
- A secondary analysis of 2011 Kansas BRFSS data found a significantly higher prevalence of health risk behaviors (heavy drinking, binge drinking and current smoking) among women who had experienced sexual assault.*

*Sources available upon request.

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THE COST OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS HIGH

According to a 2017 analysis, the estimated lifetime cost of rape was **\$122,461 per victim**, or a population economic burden of nearly **\$3.1 trillion** (2014 U.S. dollars) over victims' lifetimes.

PROGRAMS NEED RESOURCES

The nation's 1,000 sexual assault programs often lack the resources to meet victims' most basic needs. Struggling programs may not be able to fully assist a victim during a time when other community resources are also underfunded. National attention to the problem of sexual assault, increased outreach and awareness by rape crisis centers (RCCs) has meant more victims have come forward seeking recovery services.

ACCORDING TO A NATIONWIDE SURVEY BY NAESV IN 2025:



of programs report an **increase in demand** for sexual assault services.



of programs have **reduced staffing** for sexual assault services and prevention over the past year.



report having **no mental health counseling** or therapy providers on staff.



report a **waiting list for mental health** counseling/therapy services.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TTA) IS CRITICAL

In 2023, OFVPS made a historic commitment addressing sexual assault by creating two sexual assault capacity building centers led by NAESV and Respect Together. OFVPS should continue funding for these and culturally specific sexual assault technical assistance centers.

NAESV has proudly collaborated with other capacity building centers supporting sexual assault coalitions, FVPSA Administrators, tribal nations, and local sexual assault programs through listening sessions, webinars, consultation, and more.

\$5 MILLION IN TTA FUNDING IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THIS ESSENTIAL WORK.

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HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
Contact Terri Poore, Policy Director
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