

Rape Set-Aside in the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG)



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

FY26 Appropriation: \$160 million for PHHSBG; \$7 million rape set-aside

FY27 President's Budget: TBD

FY27 Request: Fund the PHHSBG at \$168 million and preserve the \$7 million set-aside for rape victim services and prevention (level funding)

FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) administered by the CDC supports essential public health services in all 50 states, 5 US territories, 2 tribes, and 3 freely associated states to address their own unique public health needs and challenges with innovative and community driven methods. Health departments use this flexible funding where communities need it most, supporting a wide range of activities to build, improve, and sustain local public health.

\$7 MILLION IS SET-ASIDE TO ADDRESS RAPE

The Public Health Service Act of 2010 includes a guaranteed \$7 million minimum set-aside to support direct services to victims of sexual assault and to prevent rape. The rape set-aside allows local communities to connect rape survivors with support and treatment after the devastating experience of sexual assault.

An advocate attends the local teen center one afternoon per week. During this time the advocate was able to educate the teens about consent, what to do if you are sexually assaulted, and how to support a peer if this has happened. A few months after this prevention/education event, a teen approached the advocate. This teen told a story of how a friend disclosed a sexual assault to her. She reported that she knew exactly how to handle this issue and support her friend in a safe, healthy way.

—Vermont RCC

PRESERVE THE SET-ASIDE

Congress has consistently preserved the block grant guaranteeing at least \$7 million to respond to rape, despite efforts to eliminate it. Congress must maintain this flexible funding for sexual assault services and prevention.

A survivor came to our organization to report historical sexual abuse. Our trained advocate provided compassionate support and guidance throughout the process, helping the survivor navigate reporting, understand their legal options, and feel empowered in each step.

—Texas Rape Crisis Center (RCC)

I called 911 and was brought to the hospital after being sexually assaulted by my partner. An advocate met me at the hospital with a SANE nurse. They were great! They stayed with me the whole time and even gave me new clothes to wear. They provided a safe place for me to stay and then helped me get a restraining order the next morning.

—Survivor, New Hampshire RCC

A college student arrived at our facility alone and without a support person. Our advocate stayed by her side through the medical exam and rape kit, empowering her to use her voice and decline any parts of the exam she did not wish to complete. At the end, she thanked our staff, sharing that we made her feel 'comfortable' during one of the worst moments of her life.

—Arkansas RCC