



National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence

**HONORING SEXUAL  
ASSAULT AWARENESS  
MONTH BY ADVOCATING  
FOR SURVIVOR SERVICES  
AND PREVENTION**

**APRIL 9, 2026**



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# WHO WE ARE



CAMILLE CLAY  
Communications & Operations  
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# AGENDA

END  
SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE

National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence

- **2025 Rape Crisis Center Survey Data**
- **Advocacy Basics**
- **Planning & Coordinating Meetings**
- **Panel Discussion**
  - Monika Johnson Hostler, NC State Representative
  - Amanda Grady Sexton, Concord, NH At-Large City Councilor
  - David Gans, Senior Legislative Assistant for  
Congresswoman Ann Wagner (MO-02)
- **Talking Points and Congressional Requests**
- **Q & A**



# NAESV RAPE CRISIS CENTER SURVEY 2025

- RCCs in all **56 U.S. states and territories** were invited to participate in the survey.
- NAESV sent out a recruitment email to state and territory sexual assault coalitions to be **forwarded to all RCC members** of each coalition. We also reached out to culturally specific and tribal organizations via national resource centers.
- **Targeted follow up emails** were sent to states and territories with low response rates or without an active coalition.
- **449 completed responses** were received from RCCs across 41 states and the District of Columbia.

# FUNDING

2025 RCC Survey Data

*We recently lost VOCA funding to our shelter program, which supported housing to sexual assault victims. We are still operating but don't know how long we will be able to without VOCA.*

*Arkansas RCC*



**46%**

**DECREASE**

in funding for direct services to survivors of sexual assault.

**50%**

**DECREASE**

in funding for prevention of sexual violence.

**53%**

**DECREASE**

in staffing over the last year.

# NEED

2025 RCC Survey Data

*It sometimes feels like sexual assault services are being left behind, and the system is crumbling. At the same time, we get increases and referrals for new services each year and have great outcomes for the survivors that we serve. Our staff is at a breaking point and cannot continue to manage the influx of demand at the current funding level.*

*Pennsylvania RCC*

## DESPITE DECREASED CAPACITY...



**60%**

**INCREASE**  
in demand for  
sexual assault  
services.

**56%**

**INCREASE**  
in demand for  
sexual assault  
prevention and  
education.

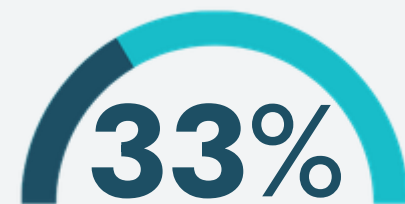
**44%**

**INCREASE**  
in demand for  
services for adult  
survivors of child  
sexual abuse.

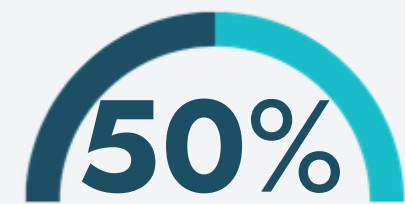
**70%**

**INCREASE**  
in demand for  
housing services  
for survivors of  
sexual assault.

# IMPACT OF DECREASED FUNDING AND INCREASED DEMAND



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



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



**Housing** is the **#1 unmet need of survivors of sexual assault**, followed by cash assistance, basic needs (such as food and clothing), and mental health care.



Many programs lack capacity for **support groups, transportation options, and housing resources** for survivors.

*One of the biggest challenges we faced this year was delivering sexual assault prevention education to rural and underserved communities. While demand for programs grew, limited staffing and transportation resources made it difficult to reach certain schools and community groups.*

*-Ohio RCC*

# NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY (NISVS) 2023/2024 DATA BRIEF

- NEARLY **HALF of women** and more than **1 in 6 men** in the U.S. experienced some form of **contact sexual violence** in their lifetimes:
  - 21% of women and 3.2% of men reported a completed or attempted rape
  - 20.3% of women and 6% of men reported sexual coercion
  - 39% of women and 13.8% of men reported unwanted sexual contact
- Approximately **1 in 3 women** experienced **verbal sexual harassment in the workplace (1 in 14 men)** or a **public place (1 in 9 men)**. More than **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 6 men** experienced **technology-facilitate violence** in their lifetimes.
- State-level data is included in this brief:
  - Lifetime prevalence of contact SV ranged from 35.1% - 69.9% for women and 10.8% - 35.9% for men

# WHAT IS PUBLIC POLICY?

**Public policy is a system or framework of laws, regulations, and actions that are used by government entities to achieve economic and social goals.**

Public policy is established at all levels of government and therefore education and policy advocacy is possible in your town, city, county, state, and federal governmental levels.

- Laws
- Executive orders
- City and town ordinances
- Rules and regulations
- Ballot initiatives
- Court rulings
- Budgets and funding

# TYPES OF ADVOCACY

- **Legislative Advocacy**
  - City Council
  - State Legislature
- **Systems-Level Advocacy**
  - Housing
  - Criminal/legal
  - Health care
- **Administrative Advocacy**
  - Governor or Mayor's Office
  - State agencies

# LOBBYING VS. EDUCATION

- To **lobby** is to make a specific request to a policymaker to take a position on a bill, a regulation, or a budget appropriation.
- Individuals and organizations can **educate** policymakers about an issue without making a specific request for that policymaker to vote a certain way.
- Organizations with 501(c)(3) status **can** lobby, and it is appropriate in many cases to do so. However, annual lobbying limits must be recognized and followed. This will vary by state.

# KEY POINTS ABOUT LOBBYING & ADVOCACY

- Federal funds can **NEVER** be used for lobbying.
- 501(c)(3) organizations can **NEVER** engage in political campaigns in which they support or oppose a candidate.
- Nonprofits **CAN** engage in elections in non-partisan ways.
- 501(c)(3) organizations **CAN** engage in efforts related to ballot measures.
- Individuals **CAN** meet with policymakers and advocate for certain policy positions outside of their work time.

Have you ever met with a local policymaker to discuss sexual assault services and prevention?

# EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

- **Role and importance of sexual assault advocates**
  - You are the experts about sexual violence and the needs of survivors, and for prevention, in your communities
  - Your experience and stories illustrate these needs and the barriers to access in profound ways
- **Relationship building with policymakers**
  - Advocacy is not a one-time activity
  - Mutual respect and trust is essential
  - Become a resource for policymakers for timely and accurate information

# MEETING WITH POLICYMAKERS

- Know your policymaker and do your research.
- Request your meeting.
- Develop your talking points.
- Build and prepare your team.
- Start and end on a positive note—stay respectful and calm even if there is a disagreement.
- Always be honest and follow up with information and answers you don't have in the moment.
- Maintain an ongoing relationship!

# OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH POLICYMAKERS

- Offer a tour of your organization.
- Invite them to speak at an event: a fundraiser, or SAAM activity.
- Engage candidates (all must be invited) in a speaking event or a candidate questionnaire.
- Invite them to join a roundtable or listening session of community members.
- Attend town or city hall meetings.
- Attend policymaker office hours.
- Participate in hearings or other listening sessions and opportunities to provide feedback.
- Engage them in volunteering for your program.
- Use social media to create awareness of an issue, tag policymakers

# OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE IN POLICY ADVOCACY

- Vote!
- Help survivors register to vote.
- Educate yourself about current policy issues related to sexual violence; engage with your state/territory sexual assault coalition.
- Follow local, state, and federal news about policy issues and sexual assault cases.
- Organize community groups where you can learn together about the needs in the community, and the solutions that community members have to offer.
- Collaborate with organizations that intersect with survivor lives.
- Write letters to the editor of your local paper to educate the broader community about the needs of survivors.

# NAESV ADVOCACY TOOLKITS

## **EMPOWER AND EDUCATE:**

ADVOCATING FOR  
SEXUAL ASSAULT  
SERVICES AND  
PREVENTION



## **EMPODERAR Y CONCIENTIZAR:**

DEFENSA DE LOS SERVICIOS  
ANTE LA AGRESIÓN SEXUAL  
Y SU PREVENCIÓN



# PANEL DISCUSSION



## **Monika Johnson Hostler**

President & CEO, NAESV

Executive Director, North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, 33rd District



## **Amanda Grady Sexton**

Director of Public Affairs, New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

At-Large City Councilor, City of Concord, NH



## **David Gans**

Senior Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Ann Wagner (MO-02)



**Moderator:** Terri Poore, Policy Director, NAESV

# KEY FEDERAL ISSUES

- Victim of Crime Act (**VOCA**)
- Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act (**CVFSA**)
- Sexual Assault Services Program (**SASP**)
- Rape Prevention Education (**RPE**)
- Rape Crisis Services, Partnerships, & Resources at OFVPS
- Healing Partnerships for Survivors Act (**HPSA**)
- Survivor Resources at Housing and Urban Development (**HUD**)
- Support for Immigrant Survivors (**DHS and DOJ**)
- Virginia's Law



# VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)

<b>FY25:</b>	\$1.9 billion released
<b>FY26:</b>	\$1.95 billion released
<b>FY27 Pres. Budget:</b>	\$1.9 billion
<b>FY27 Request:</b>	Provide steady funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victims Fund (CVF) at <b>\$2 billion</b> .

## The VOCA Fund:

- Provides **critical services** like crisis intervention, counseling, and court accompaniment.
- Faces **funding challenges** due to a decline in the Crime Victim Fund, requiring consistent and stable support to meet survivor needs.

# CRIME VICTIMS FUND STABILIZATION ACT (CVFSA)

## Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act (H.R. 909/S. 1892):

- Bipartisan bills introduced by **Representatives** Wagner (R-MO-2), Moran (R-TX-1), Dingell (D-MI- 6), Bice (R-OK-5), and Costa (D-CA-21) and Derek Schmidt (R-KS-2) and **Senators** Murkowski (R-AK) and Durbin (D-IL)
- Redirects unused funds from the **False Claims Act** to stabilize the Crime Victim Fund.
- **Supports vital programs without relying on taxpayer dollars**, ensuring assistance programs remain operational.
- **H.R. 909** passed 1.12.26. **Senate must take up and pass S. 1892.**

# SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM (SASP)

<b>FY25 Appropriation:</b>	\$78.5M
<b>FY26 Appropriation:</b>	\$79.5M
<b>FY27 Pres. Budget</b>	\$78M
<b>FY27 Request:</b>	\$100M

**SASP provides essential support for survivors,** enabling access to:

- **Critical services** in every state, including resources tailored for specific community needs.
- **High-quality care** that empowers survivors on their path to healing.

# ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS: DOJ

## FY27 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL-DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

SASP - \$78m (\$1.5 m cut from FY26)

Proposes eliminating funding for the following programs:

- Restorative Justice
- Culturally specific
- Underserved
- Direct cash assistance
- LGBTQ
  
- Consolidation of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) into one entity, the "Bureau of Justice Grants"
- Elimination of 14 positions at OVW

### **OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS**

FY25: Some discretionary awards have not been issued

FY26: Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) delays

# RAPE PREVENTION & EDUCATION (RPE)

<b>FY25 Appropriation:</b>	\$61.75M
<b>FY26 Appropriation:</b>	\$61.75M
<b>FY27 Request:</b>	\$100M

## **RPE drives innovative efforts to stop sexual violence before it happens:**

- Funds cutting-edge prevention programs across states and communities.
- Uses evidence-informed strategies to strengthen the leadership of youth, business owners, policy makers, local programs, and coalitions to prevent sexual violence.

# RAPE CRISIS SERVICES, PARTNERSHIPS, & RESOURCES AT OFVPS

**FY27 Request:** Provide **\$100 million** to Office of Family Violence Prevention and services, ACF, HHS, 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.

## **The short- and long-term effects of sexual assault can undermine a person's physical and mental health:**

- anxiety, depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide attempts
- asthma and joint conditions
- increased risk of cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases
- high cholesterol, stroke and heart disease
- increased risk of heart attack or heart disease than non-victims.

# HEALING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SURVIVORS ACT (HPSA):

**H.R. 4510 / S. 2348**

**Lead Sponsors:** Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM-3) Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1)  
Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

- **Authorizes \$30 million each year through FVPSA for 5 years** to strengthen relationships between health systems and community-based sexual assault programs to support survivors of sexual assault.
- For state, territory, and tribal sexual assault coalitions, nonprofit community-based sexual assault programs, and Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or Alaskan Native organizations.
- Build workforce capacity to meet survivor needs and retain staff;
- Upgrade and add technology to improve virtual services and increase accessibility;
- Support the unique housing and shelter needs of survivors; and
- Provide services to survivors, including therapy, support groups, holistic healing, somatic approaches, and personal advocacy through case management.

# ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS: HHS

## **FY27 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)**

### Consolidation of programs under new Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)

Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) and Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) are combined into one grant program and proposed at \$38m in total.

In FY26:        RPE    \$61.75 million  
                  DELTA    \$7.5 million

Reduction of \$31.25 million

## **OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS**

Previous reductions in force at the CDC Injury Center

Elimination of Sexual Assault Technical Assistance at the Office of Family Violence Prevention & Services (OFVPS)

# SURVIVOR RESOURCES AT HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

**FY26 Appropriation:** \$52 million for DV/SA bonus funds

\$500,000 for Office of Gender Based Violence at HUD

**FY27 Request:**

\$75 million DV/SA bonus funds

\$600,000 for the Office of Gender Based Violence at HUD

\$15 million for DV/SA Training and Technical Assistance

- **Dedicated funds for survivor housing resources** are a vital funding source for victim service providers to address the unique safety needs of survivors. Funds from the DV/SA Bonus project significantly improve a survivor's access to safe housing.
- Funding for the **OGBV** is necessary to ensure that HUD is responding to the needs of sexual assault survivors and implementing VAWA housing protections.
- **Training and technical assistance** is needed on the implementation of housing protections for survivors created in the VAWA 2022 Reauthorization

# SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

## We call on Congress to:

- Ensure that **no funds are used to apprehend, detain, and remove benefit requesters or beneficiaries of survivor-based relief** including VAWA self-petitioner classification, T nonimmigrant status, U nonimmigrant status, or Special Immigrant Juvenile classification, which undermines the protective purpose of these programs.
- Maintain and publish **annual data on asylum seekers whose claims are based on a fear of intimate partner violence** in their home country (including approval rates).
- Maintain and publish **data on the number of individuals with pending victim-based benefit requests who have been subject to enforcement actions** (including removal orders).
- **Recapture unallocated U visas** to assist in alleviating the significant backlog of nearly 239,000 primary petitioners and an additional 158,000 family members awaiting U visas by cutting the backlog by almost half, helping eligible victims of crime to obtain stabilizing benefits and facilitating family reunification.

# VIRGINIA'S LAW

## H.R. 7467 / S. 3815

Named after Epstein survivor Virginia Giuffre and introduced in 2026, the bill is designed to eliminate statutes of limitations for adult survivors of sexual abuse and trafficking to bring civil claims against abusers.

- **Purpose:** Addresses the challenge that many survivors face coming forward, ensuring abusers cannot “run out the clock” on liability
- **Scope:** Targets federal law, removing the current 10-year limit on civil claims for sexual abuse and human trafficking
- **Context:** It follows investigations into the Jeffrey Epstein case and aims to empower victims who were previously told it was too late to seek justice.
- **Targeted Action:** Specifically targets traffickers and those who facilitate trafficking, shifting legal power from abusers back to victims.

Supported by survivors and advocates who argue that legal avenues should reflect that healing is not linear.

# SUMMARY OF CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

**\$2 billion**

Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act (CVFSA)

**Senate pass S. 1892**

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

**\$100 million**

Rape Prevention Education (RPE)

**\$100 million**

Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG)

**\$168 million; \$7 million SA set-aside**

Rape Crisis Services, Partnerships, & Resources at OFVPS

**\$30 million**

Healing Partnerships for Survivors Act (HPSA)

**Pass H.R. 4510 / S. 2348**

Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

**DV/SA Bonus Funds, OGBV, TTA**

Immigration Policy

**Protect immigrant survivors & recapture U Visas**

Virginia's Law

**Pass H.R. 7467/S. 3815**

# CONTACTING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

- Identify your Members of Congress. You can find your Senator at <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact> and your Representative at [https://ziplook.house.gov/htbin/findrep\\_house?ZIP=](https://ziplook.house.gov/htbin/findrep_house?ZIP=).
- To contact your Senators and Representative by phone, call the US Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 or find their phone numbers on their websites.
- To contact your Senators and Representatives by email, go to their website and click on the 'contact us' link. If you know someone in your Senators' and/or Representative's office, contact them directly.

# YOUR QUESTIONS?

Please type your questions using the Q & A function at the bottom of your screen.

# ADVOCACY IN ACTION!

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**What is one advocacy related action you can commit to doing this month?**



# THANK YOU!

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## Contact info:

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Maureen Gallagher, Policy & Programs Manager: [maureen@endsexualviolence.org](mailto:maureen@endsexualviolence.org)

## Toolkit, Infographic, and Fact sheets:

<https://endsexualviolence.org/advocacy>



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