



## THE 2023 SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM

### **Availability of Funding Announcement**

#### **A. Overview**

OVW is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). Created in 1995, OVW administers grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. OVW grants support coordinated community responses to hold offenders accountable and serve victims. (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Since its inception, OVW has supported a multifaceted approach to responding to these crimes through the implementation of grant programs authorized by VAWA. By forging state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, judges, survivor advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, organizations that serve culturally specific and underserved communities, and others, OVW grants help provide survivors, across their life span, with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives while improving communities' capacity to provide justice for survivors and hold offenders accountable.

The Sexual Assault Services Formula Program (SAS Formula Program) was created by the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, as amended by the technical amendments to that Act. The SAS Formula Program directs grant dollars to states and territories to assist them in supporting rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide *core* services, *direct* intervention, and related assistance to survivors of sexual assault regardless of age. Rape crisis centers and other nonprofit and tribal organizations, such as dual programs, which provide both sexual violence and domestic violence intervention services, play a vital role in assisting sexual assault survivors through the healing process, as well as assisting survivors through the medical, criminal justice, and social support systems. Funds provided through the SAS Formula Program are designed to **supplement** other funding sources directed at addressing sexual assault at the state and territorial level. Because of the restrictions placed on this funding by OVW, **budgets for this application may not exceed \$50,000**. If your agency serves a large service area and operates more than one office, each office may apply. These applications must justify the additional application(s), which will be reviewed by the grant committee.

#### ***Program Scope***

Activities supported by the SAS Formula Program are determined by statute, federal regulations, and OVW policies. If an applicant receives an award, the funded project is bound by the provisions of this Request for Proposals, the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), including updates to the guide after an award, is made, the section of the Solicitation Companion Guide (link on ACASA SASP Webpage) entitled "Post-Award

Requirement for All Federal Grant Recipients,” and the conditions of the award, as directed by the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault under the [Sexual Assault Program Standards](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page).

### ***Purpose Areas***

The purpose of the SAS Formula Program is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g., court, medical facilities, police departments, etc.), support services, and related assistance to:

1. Adult, youth, and child survivors of sexual assault.
2. Family and household members of such survivors; and
3. Those collaterally affected by the victimization (e.g., friends, coworkers, classmates), except for the perpetrator of such victimization.

In FY 2023, funds under the SAS Formula Program may be used for the following purposes:

- To support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of rape crisis centers and other nongovernmental or tribal programs and projects to assist individuals who have been victimized by sexual assault, without regard to the age of the individual.

**Note:** “Without regard to the age of the individual” was added by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which means that funded service providers must provide services to sexual assault survivors of **all** ages. As a result, providers such as child advocacy centers are presumed to be ineligible for SAS Formula sub-awards unless they can provide documentation to the state administering agency that they offer wrap-around and follow-up services to all ages. However, while the subgrantee organization itself must provide services to sexual assault survivors of all ages, the specifically funded project may focus on a particular age group, such as children, youth, or elders.

SAS Formula grants shall be used by states and territories to provide grants to rape crisis centers<sup>1</sup> and other non-profit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs for programs and activities that provide direct intervention and related assistance. Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12511(b)(2)(C), intervention and related assistance may include:

1. 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referrals.
2. Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice, and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings.
3. Crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault survivors and family or household members.
4. Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim and family or household members.

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<sup>1</sup> The term “rape crisis center” means a nonprofit, nongovernmental, tribal organization, or governmental entity in a state other than a territory that provides intervention and related assistance to survivors of sexual assault without regard to their age. In the case of a governmental entity, the entity may not be part of the criminal justice system (such as a law enforcement agency) and must be able to offer a comparable level of confidentiality as a nonprofit entity that provides similar victim services. 42 U.S.C. § 13925(a)(25).

5. Community-based, culturally specific services and support mechanisms, including outreach activities for underserved communities; and
6. Development and distribution of materials on issues related to the services described in numbers 1 through 5 above.

**Note:** The SAS Formula Program emphasizes the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations (such as dual programs addressing domestic violence and sexual assault) for the provision of direct intervention, core services, and related assistance to adult, youth, and child survivors of sexual assault. **Under the SAS Formula Program, grant funds cannot be used to support sexual assault forensic examiner projects or criminal justice activities (e.g., law enforcement, prosecution, courts, or forensic interviews).** The Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault requires all agencies funded to consider the array of needs of all sexual assault survivors and available services in their targeted area of service when developing their implementation strategies.

**The application forms (Organization and Project Overview AND Budget) are available at [arkcasa.org/sasp](http://arkcasa.org/sasp)**

### ***Eligibility***

Applicants must review this information carefully. Applications that are submitted by ineligible entities or that do not meet all program eligibility requirements will not be considered for funding.

1. Applicants are limited to rape crisis centers and other non-profit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide direct intervention and related assistance to sexual assault survivors.
2. Applicants must provide services to sexual assault survivors of all ages (\*child advocacy centers are presumed to be ineligible for SASP sub-awards unless they can provide documentation they provide ***complete wrap-around and follow-up services*** for all ages.)
3. Must have been in operation on the preceding July 1 and continue to be in operation.
4. Certification from the State of Arkansas, Office of Secretary of State, or a letter from the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) classifying the applicant as a private, nonprofit organization (*please attach*).
5. Proof of Good Standing: Include a printed screenshot of the [proof of good standing](#).
6. Do not appear on the System for Award Management (SAM) [Exclusion List](#) (The federal government has identified those parties excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain types of Federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits). \*Note – the Exclusion List Link requires an updated browser. You may also access the page by copying and pasting it into your browser.
7. In good standing at the time of application and throughout the grant cycle. Good standing requires:
  - a. Timely and complete submission of SASP reports (Organizations will not be eligible for this funding cycle if they have overdue SASP reports from previously funded projects.)
  - b. Engagement with ACASA technical assistance to support SASP-funded projects.

- c. [ACASA membership](#) (If an organization is not a current ACASA member at the time of the application, they must be willing to become a member before the grant start date if awarded).
8. Applicants must agree to abide by *all* requirements of the [Sexual Assault Program Standards](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page) including but not limited to:
  - a. Code of Ethics as stated in standards.
  - b. Annual site visits and compliance review [programs found to be non-compliant will follow procedures listed under V. Notices of Non-Compliance, Category I and Category II. If an agency does not follow these procedures, funding will be suspended until compliance is reached (90-day maximum). If compliance cannot be reached within this period of time, funding will be withdrawn from the agency.]
  - c. Procedures for VI. Repeated Non-Compliance will be followed. Please review this information carefully. Unresolved non-compliance will result in loss of funding.
  - d. Service Provision must be trauma-informed and victim-centered.
9. Staff supported by the SAS Formula Program funding must be trained by ACASA as advocates. This includes staff paid only by a percentage of this funding stream.
10. Staff supported by SAS Formula Program funding must provide ACASA with proof of continuing education hours that have been previously approved by the coalition (certificates of completion should include hours of attendance).
11. [Accreditation](#) of your agency is mandatory if your organization receives SASP funds from ACASA.
12. The applicant organization **MUST** submit the most recent financial review or audit. The financial review or audit **MUST** be from 2020 or after. ***A financial review or audit submitted from earlier than the 2020-2021 fiscal year will not be accepted, and the organization will not be funded. If the organization is required by federal guidelines to have a Single Audit performed (over \$750,000.00 in revenue), this is also required to be submitted to the ACASA with the application for this funding.***

### ***Cost Sharing or Match Requirement***

This program has no match or cost-sharing requirement.

### ***Limit on Number of Application Submissions***

An applicant should submit only one application per organizational site. If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, ACASA will review only the most recent submitted.

### ***Deadline***

**The due date for applying for SASP funding is 4:00 p.m., April 17, 2023.** (*Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.*)

### ***Priority Areas***

In shaping the strategies for FY 2023, OVW encourages states and territories to develop and support projects that:

1. Improve services for and/or the response to survivors of sex trafficking and other severe forms of trafficking in persons who have also experienced sexual assault.
2. Meaningfully increase access to OVW programming for specific marginalized and/or underserved populations (based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, etc.).
3. Increase the use of promising, evidence-based, and evidence-building practices, where available.

### ***Activities that Compromise Survivor Safety and Recovery or Undermine Offender Accountability***

OVW does not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions. States and territories will need to ensure that subgrantees do not engage in such activities. Information on activities that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability may be found in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#).

### **Out-of-Scope Activities**

The activities listed below are out of the program's scope, and they will not be supported by this program's funding. See also the list of unallowable costs in the Funding Restrictions section of this solicitation.

1. Research projects. (This does not include assessments conducted only for internal improvement purposes. For information on distinguishing between research and assessments, see the heading on this topic in the Funding Restrictions section of this solicitation and the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) page 15 "General Appropriations Law Restrictions; to reference click [here](#).)
2. Activities focused on prevention efforts and public education (e.g., bystander intervention, social norms campaigns, presentations on healthy relationships, etc.).
3. Criminal justice-related projects, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and forensic interviews.
4. Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examiner programs.
5. Sexual Assault Response Team coordination.
6. Providing training to allied professionals and the community (e.g., law enforcement, child protection services, prosecution, other community-based organizations, etc.).
7. Domestic violence services unrelated to sexual violence.

Any out-of-scope activities will need to be removed from the application. Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault and The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration is required to ensure that subgrantees do not engage in such activities.

### ***Activities that Compromise Survivor Safety and Recovery***

The following activities have been found to jeopardize survivor safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for survivors, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

**Agencies engaging in any of the following are ineligible to receive SASP funding.**

1. Procedures or policies that exclude survivors from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived sex, age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or gender of their children;
2. Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and/or privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services;
3. Procedures or policies that require survivors to take certain actions (e.g., seek an order of protection, receive counseling, participate in couples counseling or mediation, report to law enforcement, seek civil or criminal remedies, etc.) to receive services;
4. Procedures or policies that fail to include conducting safety planning with survivors;
5. Project design and budget that fails to account for the access needs of participants with disabilities and participants who have limited English proficiency or who are Deaf or hard of hearing;
6. Materials that are not tailored to the dynamics of sexual assault or to the culturally specific population to be served; and
7. Policies that deny individuals access to services based on their relationship to the perpetrator.

This list is not exhaustive. Any activities that may compromise survivor safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability must be removed from the application before final approval by ACASA.

***Activities Requiring Prior Approval***

Recipients must receive prior approval before using grant funds to support surveys, whether conducted as part of a program or needs assessment, or for any other purpose. Prior approval is necessary to determine whether the activity is within the scope of the award and meets the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (see the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) for more information).

***Unallowable Activities***

The following is a list of activities that are unallowable and cannot be supported by SAS Formula Program grant funding.

- Lobbying.
- Fundraising.
- Purchase of real property.
- Construction; and
- Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting)

## **B. Award Information**

Awards will be made for the twelve (12) month period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Available funding for this grant cycle is **\$460,000.00**.

The grant process is competitive, and awards will be determined by the merits of the proposals received past performance of applicants, and evidence of a commitment to serving sexual assault survivors. Priority for consideration will be rape crisis programs accredited by ACASA and programs that best address the priority areas described above. The proposals will be evaluated by a committee consisting of ACASA's Board of Directors members, a peer review committee (other state coalition staff members), and ACASA staff.

## **C. Timeline**

- a. Announcement of funding – March 10, 2023
- b. Subgrantee statement of intent to submit grant proposal – March 17, 2023
- c. Deadline for proposals – April 17, 2023
- d. Awards announced May 16, 2023, 16, 2023
- e. Award documentation signed and submitted – May 31, 2023
- f. Project start date – July 1, 2023

## **D. Proposal Submission**

Applicants should anticipate that failure to submit an application that contains all the specified elements will negatively affect the review of the application and may result in the application not being considered for funding; and should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude access to or use of award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

- a. The application forms (Organization and Project Overview AND Budget) are available at [arkcasa.org/sasp](http://arkcasa.org/sasp) **Deadline for receiving applications is 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 17, 2023**
- b. A completed application includes two (2) parts: 1. Organization and Project Overview and 2. Budget
- c. **Scan and submit the application and all required attachments** as an e-mail attachment to [rsmith@arkcasa.org](mailto:rsmith@arkcasa.org)

***\*Digital applications are due by the deadline above. No applications will be accepted for review after this date. Applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed.***

- d. No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted after the deadline.
- e. Include all required Attachments requested in the grant application.

- f. For any questions about the application, please contact Randy Smith at the number listed above.

## **E. Contract Obligations**

After awards have been announced, the ACASA will submit a contract to be signed by the subgrantee stating the obligations and responsibilities of both parties for the contract period. Subgrantee obligations include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Participate in training provided by ACASA to enhance organization and/or services.
- b. Be familiar with ACASA's [Sexual Assault Program Standards](#) and agree to follow program requirements.
- c. Participate in program evaluation and accreditation process ([Standards](#), page 22).
- d. Submit all required reports by prescribed deadlines.
- e. Provide documentation of community involvement and collaboration through MOUs.
- f. Expend all project funding by the end of the grant period.
- g. Maintain records documenting the nature of services provided, including records necessary for the appropriate accounting of funds received and disbursed.
- h. Make documents available to ACASA, if requested.
- i. No person shall based on sex, race, disability, or religion be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program service or activity funded in whole or part by awarded funds. Applicable laws include 1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and 3) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.
- j. **Actively** participate in collaborative meetings (such as Advisory Council) to share relevant program information, help other organizations implement strategies to address issues, problem-solve difficult cases, etc.
- k. Require staff supported through the SAS Formula Program to attend ACASA's sexual assault advocacy training (if not previously trained).