Oregon Uses RSP Tool to Advance Sexual Assault Services
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The Oregon Crime Victims’ Services Division Advisory Committee has a SASP Subcommittee that guides their approach to SASP funding. The subcommittee, helmed by Jeanette Ewald, the SASP Administrator, includes members from the coalition, the Sexual Assault Task Force, the Department of Human Services, and victim assistance programs. Most of the funded programs in Oregon are dual programs. The subcommittee is using the Resource Sharing Project publication, *Opening Our Doors: Building Strong Sexual Assault Services in Dual/Multi-Service Advocacy Agencies*, as a tool in their grant solicitation process.

This year, the Oregon solicitation asked potential grantees to respond to components for strong sexual assault programs based on the RSP publication but did not rate responses based on the components. They found that many of the programs were strong in most of the indicators but had room to grow in others. In the future, they hope to rate solicitations based on these requirements, or some iteration of the requirements, both for SASP funds and also to guide funding under the sexual assault set-aside in STOP. In this round, potential grantees completed a checklist: “Indicators of High Quality Sexual Assault Programs.” Applicants also provided narrative responses discussing their strengths related to sexual assault service provision and plans for further development of sexual assault services.

Here is the language Jeanette included in the most recent solicitation:

“The following ten components have been identified as indicators of high quality sexual assault programs. While an organization may be challenged with limited financial and organizational resources or resistant communities, building capacity to integrate these ten components into organizational structures, staff training and community partnerships can enhance an organization’s capacity to meet the unique needs of sexual assault survivors. Indicate which of the components your organization has fully or partially integrated into its organizational systems by checking all appropriate boxes and provide a brief description of any potential future efforts to build capacity in the components not, or not fully, integrated:

Indicators of High Quality Sexual Assault Programs (columns are labeled “partially” and “fully”):

- Strong agencies have a mission, strategic plan, and specific goals established for their sexual assault program.
- Strong agencies provide specific advocacy training on sexual violence and core service provision
- Strong agencies provide services to the full continuum of sexual violence survivors, including girls and boys, teen and adult women, and teen and adult men (services to girls and boys may be provided through community partnerships). Strong agencies also support significant others, partners, family, and friends.
- Strong agencies speak to the community about sexual violence.
Strong agencies provide crisis intervention services, including medical and legal advocacy that are specially tailored or created to meet the needs of survivors of sexual violence (medical and legal advocacy may include active participation in established inter-agency response protocols).

Strong agencies provide ongoing support services specifically designed and marketed for survivors of sexual violence, including support groups, access to therapy, and services for non-offending or other secondary victims.

Strong agencies work with systems.

Strong agencies listen to the community.

Strong agencies have ongoing dialogue about sexual violence and oppression, develop culturally relevant policies, practices, and education programs, and help survivors find vital services that are culturally relevant.

Strong agencies have a plan that is both proactive and responsive to vicarious trauma experienced by staff and volunteers.

**Organization Capacity to Deliver Sexual Assault Services.** Applicants must demonstrate the specific organizational capacity to implement the proposed sexual assault project.

a. Your response to this question will provide reviewers with a sense of your organization’s commitment to address the subject of sexual violence in the community and your organization’s capacity to implement the proposed project.

b. Indicate what proportion of any current funding streams are dedicated specifically to support sexual assault services.

c. The ten components of high quality sexual assault advocacy agencies are derived from the *Opening Our Doors: Building Strong Sexual Assault Services in Dual/Multi-Services Advocacy Agencies*, prepared by the Resource Sharing Project at the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault through a grant awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women. The full report is available at: [http://www.ncdsv.org/images/RSP_OpeningOurDoors_2012.pdf](http://www.ncdsv.org/images/RSP_OpeningOurDoors_2012.pdf). There is no SASP eligibility requirement that applicant organizations have integrated any or all of the ten components, or intend to integrate any or all of the ten components, however, your response to this question will provide reviewers with a sense of an organization’s current and future capacity and commitment to serving survivors of sexual assault in a focused and intentional manner.”

Jeanette hopes that this approach will help grantees appreciate the good work they are doing, understand how to improve their response to sexual assault survivors, inspire them to reach further, and ensure that funding is used to best support survivors.