



The Sexual Assault Services Coalition Grant Program

**By Terri Poore, SASP TA Specialist
March, 2015**

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) was created in 2005 with the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act as the first dedicated federal funding source to support direct services for survivors of sexual assault. Most people are familiar with the SASP Formula Grant Program that directs funding to every state for direct services. However, SASP has several additional components including a culturally-specific program, a tribal program, and a sexual assault coalition program. The SASP grants to sexual assault coalitions are a flexible funding source designed to support the critical work of sexual assault and dual coalitions as they advocate for survivors in their states and territories.

You can visit [this link](#) if you want to read the entire law related to SASP. Here is what the law says about the SASP coalition grant program specifically:

Grants to state, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions

(1) Grants authorized

(A) In general

The Attorney General shall award grants to State, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions to assist in supporting the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of such coalitions.

(B) Minimum amount

Not less than 10 percent of the total amount appropriated to carry out this section shall be used for grants under subparagraph (A).

(C) Eligible applicants

Each of the State, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions.

(2) Use of funds

Grant funds received under this subsection may be used to:

- (A) Work with local sexual assault programs and other providers of direct services to encourage appropriate responses to sexual assault within the State, territory, or tribe;
- (B) Work with judicial and law enforcement agencies to encourage appropriate responses to sexual assault cases;
- (C) Work with courts, child protective services agencies, and children's advocates to develop appropriate responses to child custody and visitation issues when sexual assault has been determined to be a factor;
- (D) Design and conduct public education campaigns;
- (E) Plan and monitor the distribution of grants and grant funds to their State, territory, or tribe; or
- (F) Collaborate with and inform Federal, State, or local public officials and agencies to develop and implement policies to reduce or eliminate sexual assault.

(3) Allocation and use of funds

From amounts appropriated for grants under this subsection for each fiscal year:

- (A) Not less than 10 percent of the funds shall be available for grants to tribal sexual assault coalitions; and
- (B) The remaining funds shall be available for grants to State and territorial coalitions, and the Attorney General shall allocate an amount equal to 1/56 of the amounts so appropriated to each of those State and territorial coalitions.

(4) Application

Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Attorney General determines to be essential to carry out the purposes of this section.

(5) First-time applicants

No entity shall be prohibited from submitting an application under this subsection during any fiscal year for which funds are available under this subsection because such entity has not previously applied or received funding under this subsection.

Coalitions use their SASP funds in a wide variety of ways. Here are some examples:

Alaska

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is partnering with a local former prosecutor who specialized in sex crimes to provide on-site, multi-disciplinary trainings called “Beyond SART Response.” These trainings cover a variety of topics including a day (or year) in the life of a sexual assault case, how advocates can help in sexual assault cases, and understanding cybersex crimes. They have done the training in one community so far with several more planned this year. This year, ANDVSA is also hosting their first “Advanced Sexual Assault Advocacy Training.” This statewide training will be presented by RSP and attended by 40 advocates from around the state. This will help them improve the provision of direct services to sexual assault victims/survivors. In person trainings are difficult in Alaska due to cost and distance but are highly effective. In the past, ANDVSA has used SASP coalition funds for other training initiatives and also to assess the needs of underserved communities including survivors with disabilities and LGBTQI survivors.

Iowa

The Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault uses its SASP coalition grant funds for staff salaries, benefits and training and technical assistance related staff travel. They also budgeted for American Sign Language interpreters at the National Sexual Assault Conference for participants from their member program, Deaf Iowans Against Abuse.

Kansas

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence uses SASP coalition funds to assist its urban dual programs in completing organizational assessments of their sexual assault services and developing action plans, as needed. A rural grant supports this work with their rural programs.

New Hampshire

The Executive Director of The New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) is part of a team of professionals planning a multidisciplinary training that will focus on prosecuting campus sexual assault cases, specifically addressing investigation strategies, evidentiary issues, and challenges regarding cases involving student drinking. This training is funded by SASP coalition dollars. Additionally, SASP coalition funds supports NHCADSV’s Administrative Director who drafts the subcontracts and monitors and manages the administration of the SASP formula grant funds in New Hampshire. Finally, SASP coalition funds support

NHCADSV's Office Coordinator who oversees the distribution and collection of client satisfaction surveys from the Coalition member programs. Feedback from the surveys is used by the individual programs to monitor and improve the quality of services provided.

North Carolina

The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) uses its SASP coalition funding to provide comprehensive technical assistance and training to dual domestic violence and rape crisis centers. NCCASA implemented RSP's and NSVRC's core competency assessment and training.

Washington

The Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP) utilizes the SASP coalition funding to provide technical assistance and training to community sexual assault programs on best practices and advocacy topics. Additionally, the coalition engages in systems coordination on issues related to child sexual assault services in Washington State.

West Virginia

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS) administers the SASP formula funding and uses its coalition grant for this including compiling reports, providing reimbursements, completing grant applications, providing technical assistance, and conducting onsite monitoring. Two years ago, WVFRIS began services in an unserved area of the state which required additional and intensive technical assistance, and they are now soliciting and vetting applications to begin services in yet another unserved area of the state. These projects are also supported by SASP coalition funds.

If you have questions or need assistance related to the SASP Program, please contact Terri Poore, SASP Technical Assistance Specialist at sasp@iowacasa.org.

The Resource Sharing Project and this white paper are supported by Grant No.2009-TA-AX-K037 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.