



Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division Funding Announcement: ***Violence Against Women Act Program – Tribal Solicitation, FY2023***

Purpose

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications for projects that promote a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to improve the justice system's response to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Available Funding

Federal funding is authorized for these projects under the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 Pub. L. No. 113-4 (VAWA 2013). VAWA funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Eligible Organizations

Applications may be submitted by State or Federally Recognized Native American Tribes in Texas.

Application Process

Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. For more instructions and information, see eGrants User Guide to Creating an Application, available [here](#).

Applicants are required to submit fully developed and detailed grant budgets at the time of application, PSO will not accept placeholder applications in lieu of a well written and detailed application.

Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	12/13/2021
Online System Opening Date	12/13/2021
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	2/10/2022 at 5:00pm CST
Earliest Project Start Date	09/01/2022

Project Period

Projects may not exceed 12 months and must start on 9/01/2021 and end on 08/31/2022.

Funding Levels

Minimum: \$5,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: 0%

Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the Texas Grant Management Standards ([TxGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Eligible Activities and Costs

The following list of eligible activities and costs apply generally to all projects under this announcement:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;
2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims;
4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals;
6. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault;
7. Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims.;

8. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims;
9. Crisis Services
 - Services that respond to immediate needs (other than medical care), emotional, psychological, and physical health and safety including:
 - Crisis intervention services;
 - Accompanying victims to hospitals for medical examinations;
 - Safety planning;
 - Emergency legal assistance, such as for filing for restraining or protective orders, and obtaining emergency custody orders and visitation rights;
 - Personal advocacy and emotional support including:
 - Working with a victim to assess the impact of the crime;
 - Identification of victim's needs;
 - Case management;
 - Management of practical problems created by the victimization;
 - Identification of resources available to the victim;
 - Provision of information, referrals, advocacy, and follow-up contact for continued services, as needed;
 - Traditional, cultural, and/or alternative therapy/healing (e.g., art therapy, yoga – with appropriate training, certification, or licensure);
 - Transportation of victims to receive services and to participate in criminal justice proceedings; and
10. Legal Advocacy
 - Facilitating participation in criminal justice and other public proceedings arising from the crime, including:
 - Advocacy on behalf of a victim;
 - Accompanying a victim to offices and court;
 - Transportation, meals, and lodging to allow a victim who is not a witness to participate in a proceeding;
 - Interpreting for a non-witness victim who is deaf or hard of hearing, or with limited English proficiency;
 - Providing child care and respite care to enable a victim who is a caregiver to attend activities related to the proceeding;
 - Notification to victims regarding key proceeding dates (e.g., trial dates, case disposition, incarceration, and parole hearings);
 - Assistance with Victim Impact Statements;

- Assistance in recovering property that was retained as evidence; and
- Assistance with restitution advocacy on behalf of crime victims.
- Legal assistance services (including those provided on an emergency basis), where reasonable and where the need for such services arises as a direct result of the victimization, including:
 - Those (other than criminal defense) that help victims assert their rights as victims in a criminal proceeding directly related to the victimization, or otherwise protect their safety, privacy, or other interests as victims in such a proceeding; and
 - Those actions (other than tort actions) that, in the civil context, are reasonably necessary as a direct result of the victimization.

11. Professional Therapy and Counseling

- Mental health counseling and care, including, but not limited to, out-patient therapy/counseling provided by a person who meets professional standards to provide these services in the jurisdiction in which the care is administered.

12. Protective Order Assistance:

- Legal representation provided by program staff and/or staff attorneys to obtain protective orders and assistance;
- May be provided by law enforcement personnel, prosecution staff or other service providers; and
- Services may be available at non-traditional locations and times.

Program-Specific Requirements

Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Certification:

All VAWA applicants must certify that they meet the following federal statutory requirements in regards to the provision of legal advocacy:

(1) Any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under this VAWA Program

(a) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking in the targeted population; or

(b) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in subparagraph (a) and has completed or will complete training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide.

(2) Any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a state, local, territorial, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials.

(3) Any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under this Program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work.

(4) The grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
2. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://sam.gov/>.

Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Construction, renovation, or remodeling;
2. Medical services other than forensic medical examinations and prophylaxis;
3. Law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue;
4. Processing DNA evidence;
5. Victim-offender meetings that serve to replace (or as a part of) criminal justice proceedings;
6. Services to incarcerated individuals, including re-entry rehabilitative services related to the crime for which they are incarcerated;
7. Medical training;
8. Cash payments to victims, gift cards, or fuel vouchers;
9. Creation of a voucher program where victims are directly given vouchers for such services as housing or counseling;
10. Leasing or purchasing vehicles;
11. Overtime;
12. Legal defense services for perpetrators of violence against women;
13. Criminal defense work, including for women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers;
14. Liability insurance on buildings;
15. Reimbursement to crime victims for expenses incurred as a result of a crime, such as insurance deductibles, replacement of stolen property, funeral expenses, lost wages, and medical bills;

16. Services for programs that primarily focus on children and/or men;
17. Activities exclusively related to violence prevention, such as media campaigns to educate the general public about violence against women, public awareness, and community education campaigns are also prohibited;
18. Prosecution of child sexual abuse when the victim is now an adult;
19. Nonessential maintenance on buildings, lawn care, and landscaping;
20. Relocation expenses for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking such as moving household goods to a new location in another state or acquiring furniture or housing in a new location;
21. Development or presentation of a domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking curriculum for primary or secondary schools (educating students from an existing curriculum would also be prohibited);
22. Activities that may compromise victim safety; and
23. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

Selection Process

Application Screening: The Office of the Governor will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement. Applications that meet those requirements will move forward to the merit review phase.

Final Decisions – All Projects: The Office of the Governor will consider the following factors when making funding decisions: cost effectiveness, overall funds availability, PSO or state government priorities and strategies, legislative directives, need, geographic distribution, balance of focuses and approaches, or other relevant factors.

PSO may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. In the event that funding requests exceed available funds, PSO may revise projects to address a more limited focus.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at eGrants@gov.texas.gov or (512) 463-1919.