



national **latin@** network

**FEDERAL RESOURCES TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR
SURVIVORS IN CULTURALLY SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES**

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Objectives

- Highlight the importance of culturally and linguistically specific services for survivors from marginalized communities
- Provide information on how community-based organizations can access federal and state funds to better assist survivors in their communities
- Increase access to resources and tools to help build capacity and provide more comprehensive services

Casa de Esperanza

Starting from a small group of Latina activists in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1982, Casa de Esperanza has grown into one of the most comprehensive Latin@ domestic violence organizations in the country.



- We recognize that it is the community that will end domestic violence, not any system or organization.
- We emphasize developing social capital (i.e. trust, reciprocity, information and cooperation) because we believe it decreases domestic violence.

The National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

The National Latin@ Network is a project of Casa de Esperanza and is a national resource center focused on ending domestic violence and sexual assault while promoting the health and well-being of Latin@ communities around the country.

The main goals of the National Latin@ Network are:

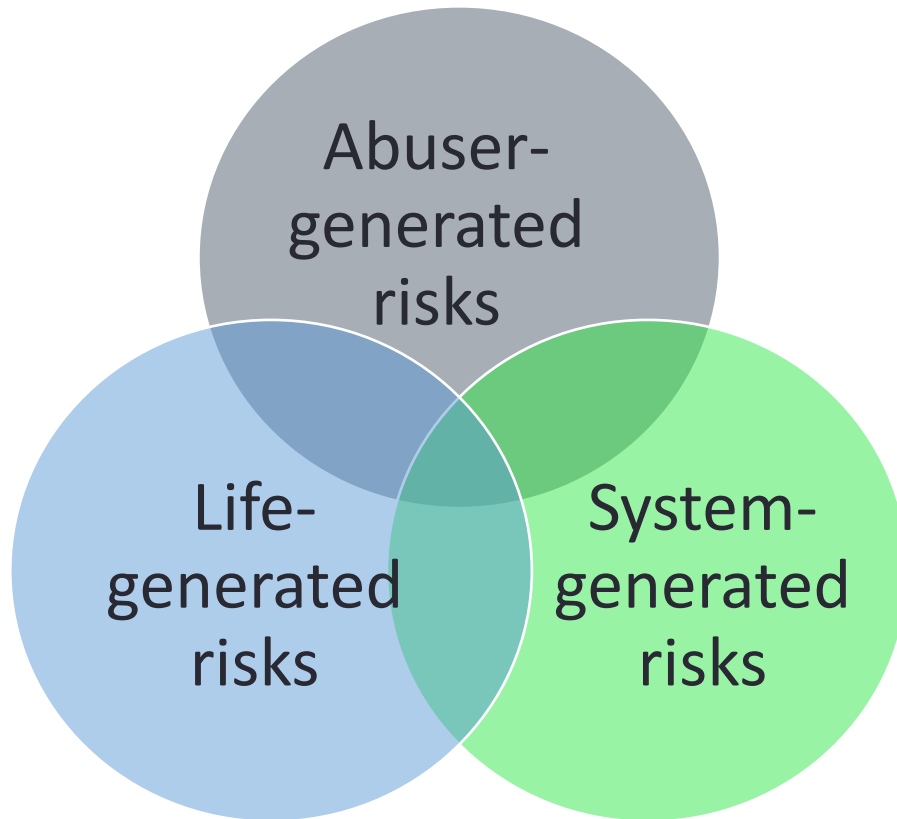
- Policy Advocacy
- Capacity building and Training
- Research
- Education and awareness



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Improving Access to Services for Survivors from Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities

- Survivors from racial and ethnic minority communities often encounter additional barriers and complexities when seeking services and safety
- All programs that receive federal funding need to provide services to all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, etc..
 - Non-discrimination provisions
- Also recognize the importance of increasing different pathways to safety
 - foster capacity building and access to resources in culturally specific communities to support the development of holistic, strengths-based and trauma- informed approaches to better address and prevent intimate partner violence.



What are the barriers a survivor faces?

In what category would you place them?

What is the impact of intersectional barriers?

Enhanced Safety Planning



Importance of Strengths-Based Advocacy

- Acknowledging the survivor's courage and strength
- Asking the survivor what her/his goals and priorities are
- Being creative in understanding and accessing community resources and networks
- Strengthening Community Engagement (Beyond community outreach)





“When you start with problems, you create programs, when you start with strengths, you create opportunities.”

Lupe Serrano

Coordinated **Community** Response – not just Systems Response



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2019

Primary Federal Funding for DV/SA Services

- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**
 - First passed in 1994
 - Reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013 with important enhancements
 - Funding administered primarily through the US Department of Justice
- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)**
 - First passed in 1984; reauthorized multiple times; most recently in 2010
 - Funding administered through the US Department of Health and Human Services
- **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)**
 - First passed in 1984
 - Non-taxpayer funds allocated to Crime Victims Fund
 - Administered through US Department of Justice

How are Federal Funds Distributed?

- 1) Through **Formula Grants** that distribute money directly to **States/Territories/Tribes** for them to award to grantees
- 2) Through **Discretionary Grants** that are administered by the **federal agencies** and which they award directly to grantees

Overview of Federal Formula Grants

Formula grants are allocations of federal funding to **states and territories**

- Determined by distribution formulas in the authorizing legislation and regulations
- Depends on how much money is appropriated by Congress each year in the federal budget
- The FVPSA, VAWA, and VOCA formula grants that go to the states are administered by **State Administering Agencies**.

State Administering Agencies of Formula Grants

- Poll question:

Do you know which state agency(ies) administer the VAWA, VOCA, and FVPSA funds in your state?

State Administering Agencies

- Association of VAWA Administrators ([AVA Directory](#))
 - STOP Administrators [Contact List](#)
- National Association of VOCA State Assistance Administrators ([NAVAA Directory](#))
- FVPSA State Administrators [list](#)

State Planning Process for allocation of funds

- State administrators of these grants are required to engage in a state planning process to guide the distribution of these grants to subgrantees.
 - Including demographic data on the distribution of underserved populations within the State and a description of how the State will meet the needs of underserved populations, including allocations for population specific services
- The VAWA statute and regulations (as well as FVPSA regulations) require that that the state administrator develop a plan for implementation and that they must develop those plans through deliberative consultation and coordination with the full list of entities required for implementation plan consultation.
 - the list includes the requirement to consult with “representatives from underserved populations, including culturally specific populations,” as well as “population specific organizations.”
 - States and territories must demonstrate through their implementation plan that they have consulted and coordinated in a meaningful way with this full list of entities
- Additionally, they are required to coordinate the state plan for the distribution of VAWA dollars with the state plans developed for the distribution of FVPSA and VOCA dollars.

Overview of Federal Funding – Discretionary Grants

Discretionary grants at the federal level are awarded directly to eligible recipients (organizations and agencies), most often on a competitive basis.

- FVPSA grants: administered by the **Family Violence Prevention and Services** program of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS);
- VAWA grants: administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (**OVW**) at DOJ;
- VOCA grants are administered by the Office of Victim Services (**OVC**) at DOJ.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

VAWA Grants

- 4 grant programs that are distributed as Formula Grants
- 15 grants that are Discretionary Grant programs
- The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) distributed over \$462 million in grant awards in 2019 through these grant programs.

VAWA Formula Grants

VAWA Formula Grants –

1) Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program: and are administered by STOP Administrators in each state.

Statutory Distribution Formula:

- 30% for victim services
 - **of which at least 10% must be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations**
- 25% for law enforcement
- 25% for prosecutors
- 5% to state and local courts
- 15% for discretionary distribution

VAWA Formula Grants- SASP

2) Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Formula Grant Program:

- first authorized in VAWA 2005
- allocates funding for each state and territory to distribute through the state administrator in order to support rape crisis centers and other nonprofit organizations or tribal programs that provide services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault

VAWA Formula Grants to Coalitions

3) State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Grant Program: These grants are provided to state domestic violence coalitions and sexual assault coalitions (as well as dual coalitions) for the purposes of coordinating victim services activities and collaborating with federal, state, and local entities in order to enhance prevention and intervention efforts.

4) Grants to Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program: This program supports the development and operation of nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal coalitions.

VAWA Discretionary Grants

VAWA - continued

15 Discretionary Grant Programs

- Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program
- Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Program
- Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations
- Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies
- Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program
- Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program
- Grants to Support Families in the Justice System
- Grants to Tribal Governments to Exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Program

VAWA - continued

15 Discretionary Grant Programs (Continued)

- Improving the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (also known as Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program)
- Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program
- Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Assistance Program
- Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities Grant Program
- Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault Program
- Tribal Governments Program
- Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

What is a culturally specific services program?

Definitions in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- **Culturally specific** – The term “culturally specific” means primarily directed toward **racial and ethnic minority groups** (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300-u-6(g))).
- The following is the definition from the Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C. 300-u-6(g)) (Used by the Office of Minority Health)
 - The term "**racial and ethnic minority group**" means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.
 - The term "Hispanic" means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.]

What are culturally specific services?

As defined in VAWA:

Culturally specific services— The term “culturally specific services” means community-based services that offer culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities.

VAWA Grant for Culturally Specific Services

Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program

Established in VAWA reauthorization in 2005; updated in 2013

Eligible entities for the CSSP grant are:

1. Community-based programs whose primary purpose is providing culturally specific services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and
2. Community-based programs whose primary purpose is providing culturally specific services who can partner with a program having demonstrated expertise in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In 2019, the Culturally Specific Services Program gave out 22 awards, totaling over \$6 million.

VAWA – SA Culturally Specific Program

Sexual Assault Services (SAS) Culturally Specific Program

- The SAS Culturally Specific Program provides grants to create, maintain, and expand sexual assault services and related assistance provided by organizations that are uniquely situated to respond to the needs of sexual assault victims from culturally specific populations.
- These grants support nonprofit organizations that focus primarily on culturally specific communities and that have expertise in the area of sexual assault or who partner with an organization having such expertise. More information about the program can be found [here](#).

In 2019, the SAS Culturally Specific Program gave out 14 awards, totaling nearly \$4 million.

VAWA – Underserved Grant Program

Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations

- The Underserved Grant program supports the development and implementation of strategies targeted at adult or youth victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking in underserved populations, and victim services to meet the needs of such populations.
- In 2019, the Underserved Program gave out 10 awards, totaling \$4.7 million.

VAWA – Additional Definitions

- **Underserved Populations**— The term “underserved populations” means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate.
- **Population Specific Organization**— a “population specific organization” means a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that primarily serves members of a specific underserved population and has demonstrated experience and expertise providing targeted services to members of that specific underserved population.

VAWA - continued

Click [here](#) to see the amount of STOP dollars distributed to your state in 2019.

Click [here](#) to see the amount of SASP dollars distributed to your state.

OVW Grant Awards by State – [interactive map](#)

OVW Grant Awards by Program – [interactive list](#)

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

FVPSA

- FVPSA is administered by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, which is located within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- FVPSA provides the primary federal funding stream dedicated to the support of immediate shelter and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence or dating violence and their dependents.
- FVPSA provides core funding annually that helps to support services provided by more than 1,600 organizations and programs across the country in their response to the urgent needs of domestic violence victims and their children.

FVPSA - continued

- The current formula in the FVPSA legislation states that 25% of the amounts appropriated by Congress above \$130 million will be allocated to fund specialized services for abused parents and their children exposed to domestic violence.
- These funds are distributed through a discretionary grant program that is administered by the FVPSA office of HHS.

FVPSA - continued

The remaining amount of the FVPSA funding for services is distributed through a formula established in the FVPSA legislation in the following manner:

Formula Grants to States and Territories	70%
Grants to Tribes	10%
State and Territories Domestic Violence Coalitions	10%
Training & Technical Assistance Centers	6%
FVPSA Evaluation, Monitoring & Admin	2.5%
Discretionary	1.5%
<i>Total formula</i>	100%

FVPSA - continued

- **Training and Technical Assistance Centers:** 6% of available funds are allocated to support resource centers that help inform and strengthen domestic violence intervention and prevention efforts.
 - Includes funding for two national resource centers (one of which is focused on Native American survivors), four special issue resource centers, and three culturally specific resource centers.
 - These and several other FVSPA-funded resource centers, together comprise the [Domestic Violence Resource Network](#) (DVRN).
- **Discretionary Funds:** The remaining 1.5% of FVPSA funds is allocated to discretionary spending, including additional discretionary grant projects.

How can your program benefit from FVPSA?

- Access support from State/Territorial DV Coalitions
- Learn who the Administrator is in your state for FVPSA funds
 - Participate in the state planning process
- Learn about opportunities to apply for discretionary funds
- DELTA prevention programs

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

VOCA

- Each year, states and territories receive Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds to support community- based organizations that serve crime victims.
- VOCA funds are distributed by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) at the U.S. Department of Justice and come out of the Crime Victims Fund (CVF)
- The CVF is financed by criminal fines, forfeitures, and penalties paid by federal offenders, not from taxpayer dollars. As of 2018, the Crime Victims Fund balance was over \$12 billion.

VOCA Formula Grants

VOCA - continued

- **Crime Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program:** This program provides funding to supplement state compensation programs that provide financial assistance and reimbursement to victims for crime-related out-of-pocket expenses, including medical and dental care, counseling, funeral and burial expenses, and lost wages and income. Compensation programs may also reimburse victims for other types of expenses related to their victimization, such as travel, temporary lodging, crime scene cleanup, and dependent care.
- **Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program:** This grant program supports thousands of victim assistance programs throughout the nation each year. VOCA grants are made to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, and victim service units in law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, hospitals, and social service agencies, among other entities. States and territories are required to give priority to programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.

VOCA Funding

All states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico each receive an annual VOCA victim assistance grant with a base amount of \$500,000; the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa each receive a base amount of \$200,000. Additional funds are distributed to states and territories based on population, following the grant formula.

- Crime Fund Allocations by State [2019](#)
- [OVC Fact sheet](#)

VOCA – Discretionary Grants

OVC discretionary grants are used to fund national-scope demonstration projects and training and technical assistance delivery to support victim service providers. These grants can be awarded to states, local units of government, tribal communities, individuals, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations.

Additional Resources

- The federal government has a website, [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov), that provides many helpful resources to learn more about applying for and managing federal grants, including the following:
 - [Grants Learning Center](#)
 - [Grants 101](#)
 - [Grant Terms](#)

It may be helpful to sign up for some of these listserves

Resources

- Boletín: [Federal Resources to Enhance Access to Services for Survivors in Culturally Specific Communities](#)
- [Culture as a Resource for Organizational Development](#)
- [Building Evidence Based Toolkit](#)



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