

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was established in 1994 with subsequent reauthorizations
 - Four programs are "formula," meaning the enacting legislation specifies how the funds are to be distributed.
 - The remaining programs are "discretionary," meaning OVW is responsible for creating program parameters, qualifications, eligibility, and deliverables in accordance with authorizing legislation.
 - These grant programs are designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.

VAWA: Federal Discretionary Grant Programs

Administered through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

- Children, Youth & Men
- Abuse in Later Life
- Arrest
- Campus
- Culturally Specific Services & SASP
- Outreach & Services to Underserved Populations
- Families in the Justice System
- Legal Assistance for Victims
- Rural
- Women with Disabilities
- Transitional Housing Assistance
- Tribal Governments & SASP

U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women - <http://www.justice.gov/ovw>

VAWA: State Formula Grant Programs

Administered through the Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs (DCJ, OVP)

- STOP (services, training, officers, prosecutors)
- SASP (sexual assault services program)

**STOP & SASP are 2 of the 4 funding sources distributed through the CVS Board*

Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs - <http://dcj.ovp.state.co.us/>

VAWA: General Provisions

CAN be used for:

- Direct services:
 - victims (adults & youth ages 11+)
 - children of victims (secondary victims)
 - incarcerated victims
- Legal services (e.g., housing, family law, public benefits, etc.)
- Medical forensic services
- Prevention
- Transportation
- 1st month's rent
- Operational expenses (rent *but not* mortgage; pro-rated)

CANNOT be used for:

- Lobbying
- Fundraising
- Activities that compromise victims' safety & recovery
- Perpetrator rehabilitation
- Immigration fees
- Moving household goods, acquiring furniture or housing
- Food
- Gift cards
- Renovations or construction

VAWA 2013: New Purpose Areas

- developing and promoting state, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault;
- 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;
- developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against **men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings**;

VAWA 2013: New Purpose Areas

- 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;
- developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their **sexual orientation or gender identity**, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code; and
- developing, enhancing, or strengthening **prevention and educational programming** to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.

VAWA 2013: Services for Men

- under a new nondiscrimination grant condition from VAWA 2013, grantees may not exclude any person from receiving grant-funded services on a number of prohibited grounds, including that person's sex
- subgrantees must provide services to a male victim in need who is similarly situated to female victims the subgrantee ordinarily serves and who requests services
- if sex segregation or sex-specific programming is necessary to the essential operation of a program... grantees may meet the requirements by providing comparable services to individuals who cannot be provided with the sex-segregated or sex-specific programming

VAWA 2013: Services for Incarcerated Victims

- services provided may only address the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victimization experienced by the incarcerated individual, including both such crimes experienced while incarcerated and crimes experienced at other points in their youth and adult lives
- funds should not be used to provide any other types of services, such as rehabilitative services related to the crime committed by the incarcerated individual

VAWA 2013: Services for LGBT Victims

- new purpose area
- the new nondiscrimination grant condition indicates that subgrantees may not exclude any person from receiving grant-funded services on a number of prohibited grounds, including that person's sexual orientation or gender identity

Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Grant Program

- Also part of VAWA but administered through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (via states)
- The goal of the RPE program is to strengthen sexual violence prevention efforts at the local, state, and national level.
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment – Sexual Violence Prevention Program
- Currently 9 grantees
- Funds PRIMARY prevention (addressing the underlying causes to prevent sexual violence *before* it occurs)

RPE Resources

- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Sexual Violence Prevention Program - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/svp>
- CDC Rape Prevention and Education Program - <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/rpe/>
- PreventConnect - <http://www.preventconnect.org/>