

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Sexual Assault Healing Services Learning Collaborative

through the
Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
and supported by the Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant
through the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
Wyoming Department of Health

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 28, 2021: RFA Released
- February 4, 2021: Potential Applicant Video Call
- March 5, 2021: Application Package Due
- March 12, 2021: Successful Applicant Notified of Selection

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Questions:

Jody Sanborn
Prevention Specialist

WCADVSA
307.684.2454

jsanborn@wyomingdvsa.org



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I. Introduction

A. General

For the purposes of this Request for Applications (RFA), the following definitions apply:

Capacity - Ability to bring about, align, and sustain a group or organization’s mission, structure, processes, culture, human capital, and other resources for effective implementation of sexual assault healing services.

Learning Collaborative- A systematic approach to learning where organizations come together to study and then apply strategies for quality improvement. This approach relies on organizations sharing their experiences to accelerate learning and broader implementation of best practices.

Sexual Assault Healing Services (SAHS)- Comprehensive advocacy services for victims and survivors of sexual assault that take into consideration each person’s unique and wide-ranging needs. This approach requires programs to “re-envision advocacy to expand beyond the care and support provided on helplines and in courtrooms or hospitals to also include the critical long term emotional support survivors need in a range of contexts as they heal¹.”

B. Background

Sexual violence is a widespread problem that has long-term effects. More specifically, studies have shown that:

- Nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the US have been raped in their lifetime, while 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men have experienced sexual violence other than rape at some point in their lives.²
- An estimated 20% to 25% of college women in the United States experience attempted or complete rape during their college career, with most assaults happening during the freshman or sophomore year.^{3,4}
- Among high school students surveyed in Wyoming, about 10% reported having been forced to have sex. Females (13%) were more likely to report having been forced to have sex than males (6.8%).⁵
- 1 in 5 adult Wyoming women have been forcibly raped at least once during their lifetime. The majority of these women were forcibly raped before they became adults.⁶
- Men and women who experienced rape or stalking by an perpetrator or physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime were more likely to report frequent headaches, chronic

¹ Wilt, K. (2019). Resource Sharing Project & National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Throw Away the Menu: Broadening Advocacy. Des Moines, IA & Enola, PA: National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project & National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

² Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and prevention.

³ Fisher BS, Cullen FT, Turner MG. (2000). The sexual victimization of college women. Washington, DC: Department of Justice (US), National Institute of Justice.

⁴ Krebs, C.P., Lindquist, C.H., Warner, T.D., Fisher, B.S., & Martin, S.L. (2007). The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance

⁶ Ruggiero, K.J., & Kilpatrick, D.G. (2003). Rape in Wyoming: A Report to the State. Charleston, SC: National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center, Medical University of South Carolina.

pain, difficulty with sleeping, activity limitations, poor physical health and poor mental health than men and women who did not experience these forms of violence.²

According to US Department of Justice (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), dual/multi-service programs (further referred to as dual programs) provide the vast majority of supportive services available to victims of sexual assault. However, since these dual programs are not exclusively dedicated to serving sexual assault victims and survivors, and are instead often heavily weighted toward domestic violence crisis intervention, sexual assault routinely receives limited attention in terms of program mission, budget, or dedicated staff with specific expertise in serving sexual assault victims⁷. It is further noted by OVW that victims and survivors of sexual assault differ from those of domestic violence and therefore their needs should receive specialized services. Current best practices for serving sexual assault victims and survivors require significant organizational change for dual programs. However, dual programs are often faced with limited financial and organizational resources that are required to successfully achieve this change.

To address this need, the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative (SADI) was funded by OVW in 2010. Under the co-direction of the National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, SADI was launched with six dual programs nationally to enhance sexual assault outreach, services, and community partnerships. Over the course of four years the six sites completed a process of community and organizational “...assessments, planning, and implementation of new and enhanced services and organizational capacity building⁸.” More specifically, SADI sought to:

1. Increase outreach to those populations experiencing sexual assault in their communities, but not currently accessing services.
2. Develop models of service provision that prioritize the needs of sexual assault survivors.
3. Assess the efficacy of those steps in increasing the numbers and types of sexual assault survivors who access those newly enhanced services⁹.

With these outcomes in mind, SADI was able to develop best practices for dual programs for outreach, service models, and organizational structures to provide sexual assault survivors with comprehensive quality care. These best practices will be utilized for the implementation of this award.

C. Description of Program

The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to select two (2) dual DVSA programs to participate in a learning collaborative that will allow them to build their capacity to provide sexual assault healing services to victims and survivors of sexual assault over a one year award period (February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022). The option of continuation into a second year will be assessed by the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (WCADVSA)

⁷ U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (2010). *OVW Fiscal Year 2010 Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative*. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/archive/ovw/docs/sadi.pdf>.

⁸ Townsend, S. M., National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project, & National Sexual Violence Resource Center. (2017). *Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative: Final Report*. Des Moines, IA & Enola, PA: National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project & National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

⁹ U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. *Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative FAQs*. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/sexual-assault-demonstration-initiative-faqs>.

based on the availability of funds and evidence of satisfactory progress by the awardees (as documented in required reports).

A major component of this award is the intensive support, technical assistance (TA), and training that the dual programs in the learning collaborative will receive from the WCADVSA during the award period. Support, TA, and training may be provided on, but not limited to, the following:

- Learning Collaborative purpose and structure
- Community and Organizational Assessments
- Development of Individual Response Plans (IRP)
- Development of community-specific Be The Solution prevention outreach materials
- Trauma-Informed Service Provision
- Development of community outreach
- Resource development
- Resources, materials, information, literature, etc.
- Program infrastructure enhancement/development
- Topic-specific training for the dual program staff, community, and systems-based organizations
- Community collaboration models
- Evaluation of efforts
- Sustainability of efforts

Monetary Award

The selected dual programs will each be eligible to receive a monetary award of \$8,402 to aid in their efforts. The award will be reimbursed to the dual program on a monthly basis and must be expended in the following manner by the dates listed below:

- \$6,301 must be spent by September 30, 2021
- \$2,101 must be spent by January 31, 2022

Each community will work with the WCADVSA to develop Be The Solution prevention outreach materials specific to sexual assault healing services during year one. **It is mandatory that the dual program commit a portion of their monetary award to reach 10% of their community population with Be The Solution prevention messaging.** This requirement must be included in the \$6,301 to be spent by September 30, 2021.

The remaining award funds may be used in the following manner upon approval:

1. Provide reimbursement for staff time dedicated to the award activities, programming, functions, etc.
2. Purchase of food and/or beverages to assist in implementation of efforts (ex: meals for survivor participation in community assessments or support groups).
3. Provide reimbursement for mental health services support for survivors.
4. Purchase resources and materials that focus on sexual assault healing services.
5. Provide reimbursement for dual program staff to receive additional training and development related to capacity building, sustainability, and evaluation of sexual assault healing services (ex: participation in the Wyoming Conference for Violence Prevention and Response or the National Sexual Assault Conference).
6. Other expenses as approved.

II. Sexual Assault Healing Services Learning Collaborative

A. Who May Apply

Any Wyoming dual DVSA program may apply. Preference will be given to:

- Dual programs who can demonstrate current capacity to implement sexual assault healing services, a history of proactively working to reach out to victims and survivors of sexual assault in their community, a deep level of commitment to the value of community and organizational assessments for the enhancement of services, capacity for active participation in the learning collaborative.

B. Selected Dual Program Expectations

Across the award period, and in order to get the most out of the award, the dual programs will be expected to maximize the resources, intensive support, TA, and training that is provided to them from the WCADVSA. While each dual program may receive similar individual TA, the resulting strategies for sexual assault healing services will be unique to each program and community.

Selected dual programs will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WCADVSA. They will be responsible for active participation in the learning collaborative, program-specific strategies for enhancing sexual assault healing services, and for completing all reports and requests for reimbursement to the WCADVSA during the award period.

During the award year, focus will be on Community and Organizational Assessments, the development of Individual Response Plans (IRP), and participation in training and TA, both for the individual dual program and as a learning collaborative. This may include but is not limited to:

- Identification of relevant community data sources and completion of community interviews, focus groups, and surveys.
- Completion of organizational assessments, including measurements of perceptions of program effectiveness, systems-based work, service provision, review of organizational policies and procedures specific to sexual assault service provision, and organizational culture.
- Assessment of data collected from the Community and Organizational Assessments and the development of Individual Response Plans (IRP) unique to each community.
- Participation in monthly learning collaborative TA video calls and webinars with the WCADVSA.
- Each dual program will work with the WCADVSA to develop Be The Solution prevention outreach materials specific to sexual assault healing services. **It is mandatory that the dual program reach 10% of their community population with Be The Solution prevention messaging.**

C. Reporting Requirements

The selected dual programs will be responsible for providing the WCADVSA (unless otherwise noted) with the following during fiscal year 2021:

1. Signed MOU. Date TBD.
2. Sub-Grantee Grant Monitoring Checklist. Date TBD.
3. Final IRP. Due September 30, 2021
4. Online monthly activity report. Due by the 5th of each month following the reporting month.
5. Online monthly request for reimbursement of expenses. Due by the 5th of each month following the reporting month.

D. Application Content

Only completed applications will be reviewed and evaluated for selection. All sections are limited to a maximum of ONE page unless otherwise stated. Sections of the application are listed below.

- **Cover Sheet:** The cover sheet should be the first page of your application. Please use the Cover Sheet form included as Appendix I.
- **Project Narrative:**
 - a. **Need:** Please describe the community in which the dual program operates. Describe the geographic area(s) and populations within the community, including any underserved adults you propose to reach with sexual assault healing services. Why do you think there is a need for sexual assault healing services in your community? (Up to 1 Page)
 - b. **Current Services, Experience, and Capacity:** Summarize the dual program's current sexual assault services, experience, and capacity. Please describe these areas by answering the following questions: (Up to 4 Pages)
 - What sexual assault services does the program provide? How are victims and survivors of sexual assault currently accessing these services?
 - What is your current client services or advocacy philosophy?
 - Do you consider the current sexual assault services to be "successful"?
 - What experience does the program have with incorporating an anti-oppression framework to sexual assault service provision?
 - Describe how being a dual DVSA program currently affects service provision for sexual assault victims and survivors.
 - Are there already existing or anticipatory capacity needs the program is aware of?
 - c. **Sexual Assault Healing Services Vision:** Please describe a vision for sexual assault healing services in your program. Why do you want to be considered for this award?

What would it mean for victims and survivors of sexual assault to receive comprehensive healing services? (Up to 1 Page)

III. Administrative Requirements

A. Issuing Agency

This RFA is being issued by the WCADVSA, a state level public non-profit organization incorporated in 1987 to respond to the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault victims and to provide statewide representation and advocacy for the twenty-four local domestic and sexual violence advocacy programs in Wyoming. The mission statement of the WCADVSA is, “*Through a collective voice, the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is committed to provide leadership, education, and systems advocacy to advance social change and end violence.*”

Funding is made available to the WCADVSA through the Wyoming Department of Health and the Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The WCADVSA will act as the funder to the selected DVSA programs. Furthermore, the WCADVSA will serve as the intermediary between the selected DVSA programs and the Wyoming Department of Health and the CDC. All SAHS strategies and requests for supporting funding must be approved through the WCADVSA and Wyoming Department of Health, and will be held to the performance measures for PHHSBG established by the CDC. The WCADVSA prevention specialist will be responsible for communicating these performance measures to the selected DVSA programs.

B. Questions & Potential Applicant Video Call

A Zoom video call for potential applicants will be held on the following date and time:

- February 4, 2021 from 2:00-3:00pm (MST).

Please use this link to access the call via computer: <https://wyomingdvsa.zoom.us/j/91090743942>

Additional questions about this RFA should be directed to Jody Sanborn at the WCADVSA at 307.684.2454 or jsanborn@wyomingdvsa.org

C. Submitting Completed Applications

Completed applications must be submitted **NO LATER than 5:00pm on March 5, 2021.**

Applications must be submitted online as one PDF document through the following link:

<https://bit.ly/2MtEHZA>

D. Reserved Rights:

The WCADVSA reserves the right to select appropriate applicants based on the goals and objectives of the state PHHSBG work plan. Furthermore, if a selected DVSA program fails to finalize the required MOU during the allocated time, the WCADVSA may begin negotiations with the next qualified applicant.

E. Term of Award

One year (February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022).

The option of continuation into a second year will be assessed by the WCADVSA based on the availability of funds and evidence of satisfactory progress by the awardees (as documented in required reports).

IV. Completing the Application

A. Application Format

All applications should be typed in 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins all around. All copies should be legible, and attachments should be clearly marked. The application package must be submitted online as one PDF document. The order of the application is listed below.

1. Cover Page
2. Project Narrative
 - a. Need
 - b. Current Services, Experience, and Capacity
 - c. Sexual Assault Healing Services Vision

B. Application Review Process

Applications meeting the guidelines set forth above will be reviewed and evaluated by the WCADVSA and the Wyoming Department of Health. Two dual programs will be selected following the review and evaluation of all applications. Applications failing to provide all response requirements or failing to follow the prescribed format may be removed from consideration.

All applicants will be considered equally. Each section of the application will allow the reviewers to assess where your community currently stands on sexual assault services and your commitment to engaging in sexual assault healing services.

C. Notification of Awards

Successful applications will be notified of their selection as a pilot community no later than March 12, 2021.

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Appendix I: Cover Sheet

Sexual Assault Healing Services Learning Collaborative

Application Cover Sheet

NAME OF PROGRAM: _____

NAME AND TITLE OF PROGRAM POINT OF CONTACT:

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROGRAM POINT OF CONTACT:

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Authority: I have read and approved the following application for consideration of our program to be selected to participate in the Sexual Assault Healing Services Learning Collaborative.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____