



**GRANTS MANAGEMENT MEMORANDUM
VSB 2023-24-3**

Date: June 22, 2023
To: **Rape Crisis (RC) Program Subrecipients**
From: Cal OES Grants Management, Victim Services Branch (VSB)
Subject: Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Revisions to the 2023-24 Rape Crisis (RC) Program Request for Application

The 2023-24 fiscal year Rape Crisis (RC) Program Request for Application is hereby revised to increase the funding to include Family Violence Prevention and Services Act American Rescue Plan Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault funds (FVSA). Grant Subaward allocations are indicated on the Updated Fund Distribution Chart (Attachment A).

To accept the additional funding Subrecipients must submit the following documents with their RC Program application:

- Grant Subaward Budget Pages (Cal OES 2-106a) that include FVSA funds
- FVPS FVPA FVCO FVSA Federal Fund Grant Subaward Assurance (Cal OES 2-109f)

Applicable FVSA fund information is provided below. Please contact your Program Specialist should you have questions.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act American Rescue Plan Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault Program Information

1. Source of Funds:

- The purpose of these supplemental funds is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Within these parameters, Subrecipients have the flexibility to determine which services best support the needs of sexual assault victims.
- There is no match required for these funds.

- Cal OES's four-digit code for this federal fund is FVSA.

2. Program Components

Allowable uses of these funds include:

- a. **PREVENTION** – Activities that assist sexual assault survivors by providing virtual services, supportive services, temporary housing assistance, mobile advocacy services, and supplies that will ensure survivors of sexual assault receive the care, support, and services they need while reducing the exposure to, and risk of, COVID-19. Prevention activities may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Provide virtual services, temporary housing options, and supportive services to survivors of sexual assault including paying for the operating, staffing, and administrative expenses of the facilities for rape crisis and sexual assault programs.
 - Provide temporary refuge in conjunction with supportive services, including the following, which can be accomplished by the development and implementation of written Operational Agreements (OAs) and/or Second-Tier Subawards with housing providers in the Subrecipient's service area:
 - Housing provisions including assistance locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services
 - Rental subsidies and rental assistance
 - Temporary refuge or lodging in individual units such as apartments
 - Safe homes
 - Hotel or motel vouchers
 - Provide prevention services, including outreach to underserved populations to increase virtual access to sexual assault services and reduce the exposure and risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.
- b. **Preparation** – Activities and technical assistance that include assessing needs of sexual assault survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Activities that provide training, information, and assistance necessary to ensure the continuity of rape crisis centers and

sexual assault programs. Remote services continue to be allowable. Preparation activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Maintain the capacity to provide individual and group counseling, peer support groups, and referral to community-based services to assist survivors of sexual assault in recovering from the effects of the violence during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Maintain the capacity to provide services for sexual assault survivors, including age-appropriate counseling, supporting services, and culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate services during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

c. **Respond** – Activities and technical assistance for ensuring the continuity of sexual assault programs and rape crisis centers, culturally specific programs, and tribal programs during the COVID-19 public health crisis which includes responding to issues such as adapting to fluctuating needs and changing circumstances. Remote services continue to be allowable. Response activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Fund staffing increases, workforce supports for employees/advocates, workforce capacity building, and any related costs to retain, reward, or recruit staff to ensure the continuity of sexual assault programs and rape crisis center services for sexual assault survivors may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Hiring bonuses and retention payments
 - Childcare
 - Transportation subsidies
 - Other fringe or personal benefits
- Provide advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services concerning issues related to sexual assault services, including:
 - Assistance in accessing related federal and state financial assistance programs
 - Legal advocacy to assist victims
 - Medical advocacy, including provision of referrals for appropriate health care services (including mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse treatment), but which cannot include reimbursement for any health care services

- Assistance locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services
- Provision of transportation, childcare, respite care, job training, employment services, financial literacy services and education, financial planning, and related economic empowerment services
- Parenting and other educational services for victims
- Provide direct crisis intervention services, including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, peer support, and in-person assistance. Mobile advocacy allows for advocates to work out in the community in order to support sexual assault survivors wherever it is safe and convenient for the survivor.