



Funding Announcement

American Rescue Plan

Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault (ARP-SA)

Grants to Stand-alone Rape Crisis Centers and Select Culturally Specific Organizations (Offering 1)

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Opportunity Snapshot

ARP-SA is a federal grant offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the 2021 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, American Rescue Plan, Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault, Supplemental Funding. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) received the grant and contracted with the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), as a pass-through agency, to administer the program which includes subcontracting with organizations to provide grant activities.

This Funding Announcement is offered by TAASA and contains comprehensive information related to the requirements of this grant. Please read the entire Funding Announcement before planning your project and completing the Application. Throughout this announcement, we refer to this grant as the ARP-SA Grant, and this offering as ARP-SA Grant, Offering 1.

Grant Type

This is a non-competitive grant with specific eligibility requirements. TAASA expects to fund all eligible applicants who apply and submit a viable proposal (award amounts are subject to the application review process, available funding, and demonstrated need).

Contact Information

For questions on this funding opportunity, contact TAASA's support team at arp-sa@taasa.org or call 512-474-7190, ext. 119. While TAASA staff cannot assist with writing a grant directly, technical assistance (TA) staff are available to discuss all areas of this grant opportunity. Please reach out with any questions you may have related to this grant opportunity.

Purpose

The purpose of the ARP-SA Grant is to assist with the transition to virtual/remote services for rape crisis centers, sexual assault programs, tribal programs, and culturally specific programs that provide crisis services, support services, and assistance to survivors of sexual assault; and support the increased emergency needs of sexual assault survivors as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The APR-SA Grant provides flexibility in how recipients use the funding to support a range of in-scope activities including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, teletherapy, peer support, temporary housing, rental assistance and nominal relocation expenses, supplies, equipment, and software to assist in carrying out virtual services. If necessary, to meet the emergency needs of survivors and increased demand for services resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, the APR-SA Grant may be used to purchase supplies needed to continue to safely and adequately staff and operate rape crisis centers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the ARP-SA Grant may be used to increase the workforce or sustain the current workforce needed to safely staff and operate rape crisis center in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This list is not exhaustive, as there may be other allowable uses of funds consistent

with the operation of virtual or mobile services and meeting the emergency needs of sexual assault survivors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible Organization

TAASA is offering funding to the following groups with an expected start date of October 1, 2022.

- Stand-alone rape crisis centers as defined in this funding announcement
- Culturally specific organizations as defined in this funding announcement and who: 1) provide intervention and related services to sexual assault survivors and 2) are or were Sexual Assault Services Program grant recipients for FY 2021 or 2022.

Number of Organizations Funded

It is anticipated that approximately 12 organizations may be funded under this announcement.

Funding Opportunity Details

Category	Details
Funds Available	TAASA has allocated up to \$9,000,000 for all grant offerings throughout the ARP-SA Grant fiscal years 2023 – 2025
Budget Minimum	\$20,000/year
Budget Maximum	\$175,000/year* This is the maximum allowed and is the sum of all focus area requests (which will be explained further in the Programming Section of this announcement).
Match Requirement	There is no match requirement for this grant.
Funding Source	These are federal funds authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act § 2204(d).

* Funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation. All awards are subject to the availability of federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

During the application process, you will be required to complete a detailed budget for Year 1 and a requested Budget Amount and Project Summary for Year 2 and 3.

Project Period

The project period begins October 1, 2022 and ends September 30, 2025. Each fiscal year (FY) begins October 1st and ends September 30th. Initial contracts will be awarded for one year, with subsequent years’ funding distributed via an extension or similar contract amending process. To receive subsequent funding grantees must be in good standing. The ARP-SA Grant Administrator will provide timely information for qualified grantees on this process prior to the end of each 12-month grant period. Grantees may be able to carry over unspent funds from years one or two in subsequent years with prior approval from TAASA. All ARP-SA Grant, Offering

1 funds must be expended by the end of the project period, September 30, 2025. TAASA will provide additional information on how to apply to use unspent funds during the 4th quarter of years 1 and 2 of the grant.

Important Dates, ARP-SA Grant, Offering 1

Event	Action Date
Informational Webinar (will be recorded)	August 8th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM (CST)
Funding Announcement Release	August 22, 2022
Online Application Opening Date	September 12, 2022
Final Date to Submit an Application	October 11, 2022
Notice of Awards	October 20, 2022
Project Start Date	November 1, 2022

Submission Requirements

Applications under this funding announcement must be submitted using the link and Grant Application ID sent to your organization via email.

Definitions

- **Culturally specific organizations** – culturally specific organizations are those whose entire programming is developed by and for a specific community.
- **Funding agency** means TAASA
- **Mobile Advocacy** – means bringing advocacy services to sexual assault survivors in the community (i.e., meet survivors in safe spaces in the community which are convenient for survivors). Mobile advocacy can include a wide range of activities which are detailed in this announcement under Focus Area 4.
- **Personally Identifying Information** means individually identifying information for or about an individual, including information likely to disclose the location of a victim of sexual assault regardless of whether the information is encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected. Personally identifying information includes a first and last name; a home or other physical address; contact information (including a postal, e-mail, or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number); a social security number, driver’s license number, passport number, or student identification number; and any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation, that would serve to identify any individual.
- **Rape crisis center** means a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal organization, or government entity in a state other than a territory that provides intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault without regard to their age. In the case of a governmental entity, the entity may not be part of the criminal justice system such as a law enforcement agency) and must be able to offer a comparable level of confidentiality as a nonprofit entity that provides similar victim services. See 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(25). Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. §12511(b)(2)(C), intervention and related assistance may include:
 - 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referral;
 - accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice, and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings;

- crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and family or household members;
- community-based, culturally specific services and support mechanisms, including outreach activities for underserved communities;
- development and distribution of materials on issues related to the services described above.
- **Stand-alone Rape Crisis Center** means a rape crisis center that meets the definition of a sexual assault program pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 420, meets the minimum service standards for sexual assault programs in Texas, and does not also operate a family violence program, a family violence shelter, or a Children’s Advocacy Center within the same organization or under the same umbrella organization.
- **System Agency** means the Texas Health and Human Service Commission.
- **Underserved Communities** means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identify, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and populations underserved because of special needs including language barriers, disabilities, immigration status, and age. Individuals with criminal histories due to victimization and individuals with substance use disorders and mental health issues are also included in this definition. **Virtual Serves** – the use of electronic devices, such as computers, tablets, and smartphones, to provide services for survivors through a secure platform.

Programming

Population of focus – primarily survivors of sexual assault who are adults; however, projects can include services to teens/young adults, particularly survivors in underserved populations, those needing assistance to meet basic needs, and/or those with safety concerns related to COVID-19.

Focus Areas - below is a summary of each focus area allowed under this grant. A list of expenditures and activities appropriate for each focus area follows immediately after the summary. Organizations may choose up to 2 focus areas; however, the sum of the budgets for both focus areas cannot exceed the grant maximum stated in the application. Organizations are encouraged to propose activities that align with the focus areas while also meeting the unique needs of survivors of sexual assault in their community.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Your organization can choose a maximum of 2 focus areas. You will need to complete a Project Narrative, Budget, and Work Plan for each focus area selected. Also, TAASA will issue one contract per focus area. This means if you choose more than one focus area, you will have two separate contacts/grants. You will be responsible for tracking actual, allowable, and allocable costs incurred for each contract and for reporting activities on each focus area selected. We strongly encourage you to read the activities associated with each focus area before making your selection(s). The first bullet(s) under each focus area is the main theme. All of the activities under the heading “Activities in support of Focus Area” are allowable in support of the main theme. You can find a comprehensive list of activities in this Funding

Announcement. As you can see there are several categories of activities (Data Security, Supportive Services, Workforce Expansions, Capacity Building and Supports) are the same for each focus area. This means that each focus area's list of activities is very broad, and it may be possible for you to meet the needs of your community under a single focus area. This is certainly acceptable and, in many cases, may be the best option. We also encourage you to assess your capacity to implement and track more than one grant contract, which could become burdensome if staff/expenditures are split between two focus areas. If you would like to discuss your plans further before you start the application process, please reach out to the ARP-SA TAASA team at ARP-SA@taasa.org or 512-474-7190, Ext. 119.

Summary of Focus Areas

1. **Enhanced Remote Services:** *Projects may include but are not limited to technology and infrastructure to expand or maintain virtual/remote services for sexual assault survivors, the development of outreach and prevention materials to increase awareness of services especially for underserved and non-English speaking populations.*
2. **Emergent Survivor Needs:** Funding for this focus area cannot exceed \$50,000/year. If an organization selects only this focus area, they may request funding anywhere from the minimum of \$20,000/year to \$50,000/year. If an organization selects this focus area in addition to another focus area, they may request any funding amount up to \$50,000/year for this focus area. *Projects may include but are not limited to providing shelter, rental assistance, transportation assistance, relocation and moving costs to help sexual assault survivors; scaling up peer support programs; increasing language access and culturally specific services; and providing basic needs supports (food and utilities).*
3. **COVID-19 Mitigation:** *Projects may include but are not limited to improving safe and voluntary access to testing and vaccines on-site at sexual assault programs, staffing (to include both new hires and ongoing staff incentives and wellness initiatives) and supplies to operate safely in-person and to better support mitigation, contracting with emergency preparedness consultants to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other emergencies.*
4. **Mobile Advocacy and Partnerships:** *Projects may include but are not limited to staff and resource allotment to begin or maintain mobile advocacy programs to serve sexual assault survivors in-community. Projects may also include but are not limited to staff time and resources to support partnerships such as MOUs and contracts with healthcare and behavioral health providers, and the integration of those providers into sexual assault mobile advocacy programs.*

Regardless of the activities selected, these grant funds may be used to cover staff salaries and benefits to cover time spent on allowable activities.

Eligible Activities and Costs - The following information contains a comprehensive list of expenditures and activities appropriate for each focus area on this grant. Organizations are encouraged to propose activities that align with the purpose of this grant while also meeting the unique needs of survivors of sexual assault in their community. **Proposals that include activities other than those listed below will also be considered. Please reach out to TAASA staff at ARP-SA@taasa.org if you have any questions regarding allowable activities.**

Additional Detail on Focus Areas:

Focus Area 1 - Enhanced Remote Services: *Projects may include but are not limited to technology and infrastructure to expand or maintain virtual/remote services for sexual assault survivors, the development of outreach and prevention materials to increase awareness of services especially for underserved and non-English speaking populations.*

- Virtual Remote Services - Costs associated with developing, implementing, and assessing innovative virtual services that increase access, and can be adapted and scaled up; All costs associated with designing, implementing, and assessing ways to optimize the use of virtual services.
 - Purchasing or upgrading of digital platforms for hotlines and crisis response services
 - Purchasing or upgrading of electronic devices, such as computers, tablets, and smartphones, to provide services for survivors through a secure platform
 - Increasing staff to provide virtual advocacy services
 - Contracts for increased internet services, technology services and software
 - Purchasing video and audio equipment
 - IT assessment and infrastructure planning (i.e., contract IT expert to develop a plan for remote work); virus protection plans; accounts for teleconferencing and training (such as Zoom, GoTo Webinar, etc.)
 - IT upgrades for program staff (i.e., laptops, audio/video equipment for teleconferencing)
 - IT equipment that promotes access for survivors and staff with disabilities (hardware modifications; equipment with flexibility in positioning; power outlet strips with accessible switches; etc.).
 - Development of materials to increase awareness of services especially for underserved and non-English speaking populations
 - Safe voluntary access to virtual services, teletherapy, telehealth, online chat, or text-based support.
- Outreach and Partnerships - Costs associated with outreach to underserved populations to increase virtual access to sexual assault services and reduce the exposure to and risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus; and costs associated with strengthening partnerships with local and state public health authorities, local health departments, emergency services managers, health care providers, culturally specific community-based organizations, tribes, LGBTQ+ organizations, and rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs to improve emergency operations throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Network mapping, formalizing partnerships via MOUs
 - Interdisciplinary taskforce development
 - Upgrade mobile apps to outreach via social media
 - Staff training on social media; analytics to determine reach and impact; evaluation and assessment

- Purchasing subscriptions to enhance brochures and other materials that can be printed and/or posted on social media
- Establish and maintain partnerships with:
 - Culturally specific programs
 - Community centers
 - State and local health departments
 - Mobile health units to bring health resources (testing and vaccination) to RCCs
 - Schools to bring advocacy to organized wellness/mental health events and testing/vaccine clinic hours

Activities in support of Focus Area 1 - Enhanced Remote Services:

- Data Security - Cost associated with protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of survivor services information, including safeguarding data from accidental or intentional disclosure.
 - Purchasing or upgrading of servers and firewall protection software
 - Training for staff and survivors on data security topics, including proper use of devices and service portals, security passwords, and data safety features
 - Renewing or obtaining IT contracts to support ongoing data security needs
- Supportive Services - Costs associated with the delivery of services to adult and teen victims of sexual assault and their dependents that are designed to meet the needs of such survivors and their dependents for short-term, transitional, or long-term safety and recovery.
 - Administrative expenses of rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs, culturally specific programs, and tribes, including:
 - Rental costs, utilities, and insurance for the facility
 - Bookkeeping software and support
 - Staffing (counselors, outreach workers, administrative staff, etc.)
 - Phones, office equipment and supplies
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
 - Generators, air filtration equipment, space heaters, window air conditioning units (installation costs not allowed)
- Workforce Expansions, Capacity Building and Supports - Costs associated with workforce expansions and supports, planning and implementation of services, training of providers and staff, increasing workforce capacity to ensure the continuity of sexual assault services.
 - Provide employee hiring bonuses and retention payments; childcare and transportation subsidies; and other fringe or personal benefits authorized by HHS regulation (45 CFR part 75), including:
 - Safe and voluntary access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines on-site at rape crisis centers

- Increase program staff to support mitigation protocols for COVID-19
- Supplies like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to operate safely in-person or in community
- Employee stipends (i.e., mental health/counseling, fitness programs, commuter stipends, tech stipends, healthcare stipends for part-time staff, etc.)
- Roadside assistance plans for employees whose position requires significant travel
- Livable wages through salary increases
- Work from home allowances, incentive pay (i.e., bonuses), appreciation/wellness/hazard pay
- Additional salary bumps for specialized knowledge/skills (e.g., survivors' lived expertise, 2nd-language skills, documented experience working with un/underserved communities)
- Hire and/or train more staff to meet the increased need and support implementation of mobile advocacy services; HHS data reporting on sexual assault services; and virtual/remote services
- Hire Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) consultants to provide policy review and training for staff and board members.

Focus Area 2 - Emergent Survivor Needs: Funding for this focus area cannot exceed \$50,000/year. If an organization selects only this focus area, they may request funding anywhere from the minimum of \$20,000/year to \$50,000/year. If an organization selects this focus area in addition to another focus area, they may request any funding amount up to \$50,000/year for this focus area. *Projects may include but are not limited to providing shelter, rental assistance, transportation assistance, relocation and moving costs to help sexual assault survivors; scaling up peer support programs; increasing language access and culturally specific services; and providing basic needs supports (food and utilities).* Applicants awarded funding under this focus area must develop policies/procedures for ensuring survivors have fair and equal access to funds and programs implemented under this Funding Announcement. Grantees will be required to submit these policies to TAASA upon request.

- Third-party payments to meet survivors' needs:
 - Car repairs, new tire/snow tire/chain purchases, roadside maintenance plans, travel for relocation costs
 - Medical expenses
 - Rental assistance as described in the *Temporary Housing Assistance* section below
 - Bus, train, rideshare vouchers, and metro tickets
 - Education & employment expenses (i.e., laptops, cameras, headsets, tuition, childcare costs, training/certification program tuition, books, educational supplies, uniforms, transportation, etc.)
 - IT for survivors (i.e., laptops, audio/video equipment for teleconferencing)

- Services and supplies to support survivors accessing rape crisis centers, sexual assault programs and tribes, including:
 - Clothing, food, and toiletries
 - Children’s supplies (diapers, bottles, formula, clothing, breast pumps, blankets, toys, etc.)
 - Items to help survivors implement safety plans (transportation subsidies; assistance obtaining lock changes and/or installing security devices; new phone/IT devices; etc.)
 - Translation and interpretation services to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services and access
 - Items for traditional and cultural practices that promote healing, including specialized staff who can provide culturally responsive mental health services
 - Sexual assault-related advocacy, case management and counseling services, as well as food and housing advocacy
 - Provision of transportation, childcare, respite care, job training and employment services, financial literacy and economic empowerment services
 - Provision of wellness resources, such as yoga and exercise supplies
- Temporary Housing Assistance - Costs associated with locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services.
 - Third-party payments to cover survivor housing and related expenses:
 - Rental subsidies, late fees, back rent payment
 - Utilities (i.e., deposits, monthly charges, amounts owed)
 - Application/credit fees
 - First/last month rent deposits
 - ID replacement
 - Legal fees for eviction support
 - Household supplies for relocating (appliances, cooking supplies, beds, cribs, etc.)
 - Crates, pet food and other supplies if housing pets with survivors
 - Nominal moving costs
 - Provision of temporary refuge or lodging in individual units such as apartments or safe homes (which is not required to be owned, operated, or leased by the programs)
 - Hotel or motel vouchers

Activities in support of Focus Area 2 - Emergent Survivor Needs:

- Data Security - Cost associated with protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of survivor services information, including safeguarding data from accidental or intentional disclosure.
 - Purchasing or upgrading of servers and firewall protection software
 - Training for staff and survivors on data security topics, including proper use of devices and service portals, security passwords, and data safety features
 - Renewing or obtaining IT contracts to support ongoing data security needs

- Supportive Services - Costs associated with the delivery of services to adult and teen victims of sexual assault and their dependents that are designed to meet the needs of such survivors and their dependents for short-term, transitional, or long-term safety and recovery.
 - Administrative expenses of rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs, culturally specific programs, and tribes, including:
 - Rental costs, utilities, and insurance for the facility
 - Bookkeeping software and support
 - Staffing (counselors, outreach workers, administrative staff, etc.)
 - Phones, office equipment and supplies
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
 - Generators, air filtration equipment, space heaters, window air conditioning units (installation costs not allowed)
- Workforce Expansions, Capacity Building and Supports – Costs associated with workforce expansions and supports, planning and implementation of services, training of providers and staff, increasing workforce capacity to ensure the continuity of sexual assault services.
 - Provide employee hiring bonuses and retention payments; childcare and transportation subsidies; and other fringe or personal benefits authorized by HHS regulation (45 CFR part 75), including:
 - Safe and voluntary access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines on-site at rape crisis centers
 - Increase program staff to support mitigation protocols for COVID-19
 - Supplies like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to operate safely in-person or in community
 - Employee stipends (i.e., mental health/counseling, fitness programs, commuter stipends, tech stipends, healthcare stipends for part-time staff, etc.)
 - Roadside assistance plans for employees whose position requires significant travel
 - Livable wages through salary increases
 - Work from home allowances, incentive pay (i.e., bonuses), appreciation/wellness/hazard pay
 - Additional salary bumps for specialized knowledge/skills (e.g., survivors' lived expertise, 2nd-language skills, documented experience working with un/underserved communities)
 - Hire and/or train more staff to meet the increased need and support implementation of mobile advocacy services; HHS data reporting on sexual assault services; and virtual/remote services
 - Hire Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) consultants to provide policy review and training for staff and board members

Focus Area 3 - COVID-19 Mitigation: *Projects may include but are not limited to improving safe and voluntary access to testing and vaccines on-site at sexual assault programs, staffing (to include both new hires and ongoing staff incentives and wellness initiatives) and supplies to operate safely in-person and to better support mitigation, contracting with emergency preparedness consultants to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other emergencies.*

- Assessment and Planning - Costs associated with assessing the capacity of local rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs and tribes' emergency operation plans and plans to address the needs of survivors and reduce the exposure to and risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.
 - Cost of staff time and/or hired consultants to conduct emergency operations assessments and planning, including:
 - Review job descriptions to determine where emergency tasks and roles should live; Planning for increased service demands; Remote services operational capacity; Potential provider closures; and Staff absenteeism
 - Ensure workplace health and safety policies and procedures are in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations and CDC guidance
 - Develop service audits and implementation plans for improving service delivery that center racial equity; accessibility needs for survivors with disabilities; and language access
 - Provide organizational capacity-building services (i.e., strategic planning, training and technical assistance, needs assessments, evaluation/research support, Board development, fiscal management services)
- Training, Info and Technical Assistance - Costs associated with the provision of training, information, and assistance for ensuring the continuity of local rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs, culturally specific programs, and tribal sexual assault programs to maintain and build the capacity to serve and support survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency
 - Purchase or extend contracts for training software (i.e., recording modules and training sessions for internal and external training needs)
 - Contracts for services to translate and interpret training materials
 - Training for staff on best practices for incorporating training needs for survivors with disabilities and language access needs
 - Access to staff development (conferences, workshops, trainings) to increase capacity of staff to provide sexual assault services

Activities in support of Focus Area 3 - COVID-19 Mitigation:

- Data Security - Cost associated with protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of survivor services information, including safeguarding data from accidental or intentional disclosure.
 - Purchasing or upgrading of servers and firewall protection software

- Training for staff and survivors on data security topics, including proper use of devices and service portals, security passwords, and data safety features
 - Renewing or obtaining IT contracts to support ongoing data security needs
- Supportive Services - Costs associated with the delivery of services to adult and teen victims of sexual assault and their dependents that are designed to meet the needs of such survivors and their dependents for short-term, transitional, or long-term safety and recovery.
 - Administrative expenses of rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs, culturally specific programs, and tribes, including:
 - Rental costs, utilities, and insurance for the facility
 - Bookkeeping software and support
 - Staffing (counselors, outreach workers, administrative staff, etc.)
 - Phones, office equipment and supplies
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
 - Generators, air filtration equipment, space heaters, window air conditioning units (installation costs not allowed)
- Workforce Expansions, Capacity Building and Supports - Costs associated with workforce expansions and supports, planning and implementation of services, training of providers and staff, increasing workforce capacity to ensure the continuity of sexual assault services.
 - Provide employee hiring bonuses and retention payments; childcare and transportation subsidies; and other fringe or personal benefits authorized by HHS regulation (45 CFR part 75), including:
 - Safe and voluntary access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines on-site at rape crisis centers
 - Increase program staff to support mitigation protocols for COVID-19
 - Supplies like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to operate safely in-person or in community
 - Employee stipends (i.e., mental health/counseling, fitness programs, commuter stipends, tech stipends, healthcare stipends for part-time staff, etc.)
 - Roadside assistance plans for employees whose position requires significant travel
 - Livable wages through salary increases
 - Work from home allowances, incentive pay (i.e., bonuses), appreciation/wellness/hazard pay
 - Additional salary bumps for specialized knowledge/skills (e.g., survivors' lived expertise, 2nd-language skills, documented experience working with un/underserved communities)
 - Hire and/or train more staff to meet the increased need and support implementation of mobile advocacy services; HHS data reporting on sexual assault services; and virtual/remote services

- Hire Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) consultants to provide policy review and training for staff and board members

Focus Area 4 - Mobile Advocacy and Partnerships: *Projects may include but are not limited to staff and resource allotment to begin or maintain mobile advocacy programs to serve sexual assault survivors in-community. Projects may also include but are not limited to staff time and resources to support partnerships such as MOUs and contracts with healthcare and behavioral health providers, and the integration of those providers into sexual assault mobile advocacy programs.*

- **Mobile Advocacy Services** - Costs related to building the capacity of advocacy staff to be mobile and meet survivors in the community to provide goal planning, counseling, and advocacy.
 - Vehicles can be purchased to support mobile advocacy, survivor pick-ups, transport to/from court/services, child transport to school/childcare/activities
 - Mobile advocacy vehicles may include automobiles, trucks, 4-wheel vehicles, transportation watercraft, RVs
 - Training for advocate staff on core elements of survivor-led mobile advocacy
 - Mobile technology (lap-tops; cell phones; tablets) to support advocates' work in the field, including hospital and court accompaniment
 - Vehicle repair and roadside assistance
 - Gas and mileage expenses related to mobile advocacy
- **Outreach and Partnerships** - Costs associated with outreach to underserved populations to increase virtual access to sexual assault services and reduce the exposure to and risk of contracting the COVID 19 virus; and costs associated with strengthening partnerships with local and state public health authorities, local health departments, emergency services managers, health care providers, culturally specific community-based organizations, tribes, LGBTQ+ organizations, and rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs to improve emergency operations throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Network mapping, formalizing partnerships via MOUs
 - Interdisciplinary taskforce development
 - Upgrade mobile apps to outreach via social media
 - Staff training on social media; analytics to determine reach and impact; evaluation and assessment
 - Purchasing subscriptions to enhance brochures and other materials that can be printed and/or posted on social media
 - Establish and maintain partnerships with:
 - Culturally specific programs
 - Community centers
 - State and local health departments
 - Mobile health units to bring health resources (testing and vaccination) to RCCs

- Schools to bring advocacy to organized wellness/ mental health events and testing/vaccine clinic hours

Activities in Support of Focus Area 4 - Mobile Advocacy and Partnerships:

- Data Security - Cost associated with protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of survivor services information, including safeguarding data from accidental or intentional disclosure.
 - Purchasing or upgrading of servers and firewall protection software
 - Training for staff and survivors on data security topics, including proper use of devices and service portals, security passwords, and data safety features
 - Renewing or obtaining IT contracts to support ongoing data security needs
- Supportive Services - Costs associated with the delivery of services to adult and teen victims of sexual assault and their dependents that are designed to meet the needs of such survivors and their dependents for short-term, transitional, or long-term safety and recovery.
 - Administrative expenses of rape crisis centers/sexual assault programs, culturally specific programs, and tribes, including:
 - Rental costs, utilities, and insurance for the facility
 - Bookkeeping software and support
 - Staffing (counselors, outreach workers, administrative staff, etc.)
 - Phones, office equipment and supplies
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
 - Generators, air filtration equipment, space heaters, window air conditioning units (installation costs not allowed)
- Workforce Expansions, Capacity Building and Supports - Costs associated with workforce expansions and supports, planning and implementation of services, training of providers and staff, increasing workforce capacity to ensure the continuity of sexual assault services.
 - Provide employee hiring bonuses and retention payments; childcare and transportation subsidies; and other fringe or personal benefits authorized by HHS regulation (45 CFR part 75), including:
 - Safe and voluntary access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines on-site at rape crisis centers
 - Increase program staff to support mitigation protocols for COVID-19
 - Supplies like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to operate safely in-person or in community
 - Employee stipends (i.e., mental health/counseling, fitness programs, commuter stipends, tech stipends, healthcare stipends for part-time staff, etc.)
 - Roadside assistance plans for employees whose position requires significant travel.

- Livable wages through salary increases
- Work from home allowances, incentive pay (i.e., bonuses), appreciation/wellness/hazard pay
- Additional salary bumps for specialized knowledge/skills (e.g., survivors' lived expertise, 2nd-language skills, documented experience working with un/underserved communities)
- Hire and/or train more staff to meet the increased need and support implementation of mobile advocacy services; HHS data reporting on sexual assault services; and virtual/remote services
- Hire Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) consultants to provide policy review and training for staff and board members

An important note about staff bonuses and other incentives. Organizations may include staff bonuses/incentives for all staff in the organization even if those staff are not on this grant if: 1) the staff bonuses/incentives are distributed in a fair and equitable manner and 2) the organization shows their methodology in determining staff bonuses/incentives. You may include staff bonuses for all staff on one-line item on the budget under personnel. Show your methodology in the justification section.

Ineligible Activities/Expenditures - include but may not be limited to:

- Advertising and public relations other than those allowed by (2 CFR 200.421)
- Advisory Councils – costs incurred by advisory councils or committees are unallowable unless authorized by state law or executive order (2 CFR 200.422)
- Alcoholic beverages – costs of alcoholic beverages are unallowable (2 CFR 200.423)
- Audit Services – a reasonable proportionate share of the costs of audits required by and performed in accordance with state law and the audit requirements of Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) are allowable
- Bad debts (2 CFR 200.426)
- Cash payments to victims, gift cards, or fuel vouchers
- Capital Expenditures such as buildings and land are unallowable (2 CFR 200.439)
- Goods or services for personal use are unallowable (2 CFR 200.445)
- Defense and Prosecution of Criminal and Civil Proceedings, Claims, Appeals and Patent Infringements are not allowed (2 CFR 200.435)
- Entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities and any associated costs are unallowable except where specific costs have a programmatic purpose and are authorized either in the approved budget or with prior written approval (2 CFR 200.438)
- Fines, penalties, damages, and other settlements resulting from local government violations, of, alleged violations, of, or failure to comply with, federal, state, local laws and regulations are unallowable
- Fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitations of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions. (2 CFR 200.442).
- Idle facilities and idle capacity – payment for idle facilities is unallowable except when they are necessary to meet fluctuations in workload, they were necessary when acquired and are not idle because of changes in program requirements, efforts to achieve more

economical operations, reorganization, termination, or other causes which could not have been reasonably foreseen (2 CFR 200.446). COVID as a global pandemic provides an exception to this requirement and organizations can continue to pay rent for staff on this grant and allow for remote work as allowed by each organization's board.

- Interest – costs incurred for interest on borrowed capital are unallowable. Financing costs (including interest) to acquire capital assets are allowable, subject to conditions identified in TxGMS (2 CFR 200.449)
- Lobbying – costs associated with prohibited lobbying activities is not allowed (2 CFR 200.450)
- Losses on other awards or contracts are not allowed (2 CFR 200.451)
- Membership in any country club or social or dining club or organization is unallowable. Costs of membership in organizations whose primary purpose if lobbying are unallowable (2 CFR 200.454)
- Organization costs – costs associated with the establishment or reorganization of an organization (2 CFR 200.455)
- Political activities – grant funds cannot be used directly or indirectly for political purposes, including lobbying, advocating for legislation, campaigning for, endorsing, contributing to, or otherwise supporting political candidates or parties, and voter registration campaigns. Grant-funded employees may not use official authority or influence to achieve any political purpose and grant funds cannot be used for the salary, benefits, or any other compensation of an elected official.
- Religious Activities – Grantee may not use grant funding to engage in inherently religious activities, such as proselytizing, scripture study, or worship. Grantees must not compel program beneficiaries to participate in inherently religious activities.
- Pre-award costs are not allowable (2 CFR 200.458)
- Student activity costs – costs incurred for intramural activities, student publications, student clubs, and other student activities, are unallowable, unless specifically provided for the state award (2 CFR 200.469)

Accounting Requirements, Financial Capability and Reimbursements, Budgetary Controls, Internal Controls, Grant Monitoring, Progress Reports, and Outcome Measures

Accounting System Requirements

Grantees will be required to have accounting systems, and policies and procedures needed to track actual, allowable, and allocable costs incurred for this grant. Grantees must incorporate an accounting system that will track direct and indirect costs for the organization (general ledger) as well as direct and indirect costs by project (project ledger). Grantees should plan on preparing and keeping a general ledger throughout this grant period. Grantees will be required to submit their general ledger to TAASA upon request. Grantees must establish a time and efforts system to track personnel costs by project. This information should be reported on an hourly basis, or in increments of an hour.

Additionally, Grantees will be required to keep detailed records of any third-party payments made on behalf of survivors. TAASA staff will provide additional information and technical

assistance regarding record-keeping post award. At a minimum, Applicants are strongly encouraged to assess their current accounting system carefully before applying for this grant as Applicants can include the cost of an accounting system or accounting services in their budget.

Financial Capability

Grantees should prepare annual financial statements. At a minimum, current internal balance sheets and income statements are required. A balance sheet is a statement of financial position for a grant agency disclosing assets, liabilities, and retained earnings at a given point in time. An income statement is a summary of revenue and expenses for a grantee during a fiscal year.

Financial Reimbursements

Reimbursements are requested via FSRs (Financial Status Reports). Grantees will be required to submit invoices for reimbursements by the 15th of every month via *SalesForce Communities*. A SalesForce Community account will be provided for grantees post award.

Budgetary Controls

Grantees should establish a system to track expenditures against budget and / or funded amounts.

Internal Controls

Grantees must safeguard cash receipts, disbursements, and ensure a segregation of duties exist. For example, one person should not have authorization to sign checks and make deposits.

Grant Monitoring

Grantees may be required to complete financial surveys, complete a desk review (written review of general recordkeeping, internal operations, and accounting control systems), provide clarification on services provided, or similar compliance measures. This could include an in-person financial assessment of your ARP-SA Grant, Offering 1 funds. All programs will receive a financial assessment and an on-site review of their program operations at least once during the three-year project period or more frequently if needed. Technical Assistance is available if you need help getting your financial systems set up.

Progress Reports - Quarterly performance reports are required and are due on the last working day of the month following the end of each quarter (based on the federal fiscal year October 1 – September 30). Additional information may be required. A reporting template will be provided after the award. Below is the reporting schedule for FY 2023.

Quarter	Report Period	Report Due
1 st Quarter	October 1 – December 31, 2022	January 31, 2023
2 nd Quarter	January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023	April 28, 2023
3 rd Quarter	April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023	July 28, 2023
4 th Quarter	July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023	October 31, 2023

Quarterly performance reports may include but are not limited to: # of unique victims served, demographic information for victims served (if available), # of instances of services provided (e.g., instances of counseling, advocacy, etc.), # and sums of third-party payments to meet survivors' needs, # of outreach events and # of participants, successes, challenges, and outcome data (e.g., impact in the community because of this project). Grantees will be required to complete a client reporting log for any third-party payments made on behalf of survivors.

In addition to quarterly reports, an annual report will be required. The annual report will be due October 31st of each grant year. TAASA staff will provide additional information on the annual report post award.

Additionally, as this is a federal grant, HHS or HHSC may add additional reporting requirements throughout the project period. If that is the case, TAASA staff will inform you of these additional requirements.

Outcome Measures

TAASA will be collecting information from Grantees related to the following outcomes (when applicable):

- Safe voluntary access to virtual, remote, and in-person services
- Reduced burden for sexual assault programs that do not have resources to support COVID-19 mitigation
- Meaningful partnerships with health care providers
- Increased access and utilization of mobile advocacy services
- Increased access to health, wellbeing, and behavioral health support for survivors
- Enhanced supportive services for survivors that are safe and accessible

In addition to the required outcomes, Grantees may indicate Other Outcomes they plan to collect.

Note: Not all the outcomes will be collected for each focus area. TAASA staff will identify which outcomes are required for each focus areas post award. Additionally, as this is a federal grant, HHS or HHSC may add additional outcome requirements though-out the project period. If that is the case, TAASA staff will inform you of these additional requirements.

Additional Grant Requirements

Certifications – to receive this award, your authorized official will be required to certify the organization’s compliance with the following:

- Grantee assures that it will follow the guidelines in the Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) which can be found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/grant-management/>.
- Grantee assures compliance with all federal/state statutes, regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements, including but not limited to 2 CFR, Part 200 which can be found at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1>

- Annual Single Audit – if grantee, within Grantee’s fiscal year, expends at least \$750,000 in federal funds awarded, Grantee shall have a single audit or program-specific audit in accordance with 2 CFR 200. The federal threshold amount includes federal funds passed through by way of state agency awards. If Grantee, within Grantee’s fiscal year, expends at least \$750,000 in state funds awarded, Grantee shall have a single audit or program-specific audit in accordance with TxGMS. The audit must be conducted by an independent certified public accountant and in accordance with 2 CFR 200, Government Auditing Standards, and TxGMS. Each Grantee that does not meet the expenditure threshold for a single audit or program specific audit, must provide financial statements for the audit period.
- Confidentiality
 - Grantee shall maintain as confidential and shall not disclose to third parties without HHSC’s prior written consent, any HHSC information including but not limited to HHSC’s business activities, practices, systems, conditions and services. This section will survive termination or expiration of this Grant Agreement.
 - Grantee must comply with the confidentiality requirements in 45 CFR 1370.4 which can be found at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-B/chapter-XIII/subchapter-H/part-1370/subpart-A/section-1370.4>
 - Grantee must comply with Texas Government Code 420.071, Confidential Communication and Records; Privilege relating to communication between an advocate and a survivor. The statute can be found at <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.420.htm>
- Equal Employment Opportunity – Grantee represents and warrants its compliance with all applicable duly enacted state and federal laws governing equal employment opportunities.
- Federal Funding and Transparency Act – Pursuant to 2 CFR 170.100, Grantee agrees that if they are required to complete the FFATA certification, they will contact TAASA to provide this information. Exceptions (2 CFR 170,110), none of the requirements regarding reporting names and total compensation of a non-Federal entity's five most highly compensated executives apply unless in the non-Federal entity's preceding fiscal year, it received -
 - (i) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenue in Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance awards subject to the Transparency Act, as defined in 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - (ii) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenue from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance awards subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320; and
 - The public does not have access to information about the compensation of senior executives, unless otherwise publicly available, through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- HHSC Monitoring – Grantee agrees to permit on-site monitoring visits and desk reviews, as deemed necessary by HHSC to review all financial or other records and management control system relevant to the provision of services under this grant.

- Lobbying Prohibition – Lobbying Prohibition - Grantee represents and warrants that payment to Grantee and Grantee’s receipt of appropriated or other funds, under this grant or any related Solicitation are not prohibited by Sections 556.005, 556.0055, or 556.008 of the Texas Government Code (relating to use of appropriated money or state funds to employ or pay lobbyists, lobbying expenses, or influence legislation).
- Non-discrimination – Grantee agrees to comply with all federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. This includes 45 CFR 1370.5(d) which requires that services must be provided without requiring documentation of immigration status. HHS has determined that services provided with these grant funds do not fall within the definition of a federal public benefit that would require verification of immigration status.
- Requirement for Participating in Services - In alignment with 45 CFR 1370.10(b)(10), the receipt of supportive services shall be voluntary. No requirement for participating in services may be imposed by the Grantee. The receipt of services cannot be conditioned on participation in other services including but not limited to counseling, life skills training, substance use disorder treatment, specific legal remedies, etc.
- Return of Grant Funds in the event of loss or misuse – Grantee agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of these funds, grantee will return the funds to TAASA.
- Suspension and Debarment – Grantee certifies that it and its principals are not suspended or debarred from doing business with the state or federal government as listed on the State of Texas Debarred Vendor List maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the System for Award Management (SAM) maintained by the General Services Administration. This certification is made pursuant to the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549 and Executive Order 12689, Debarment and Suspension, 2 CFR Part 376, and any relevant regulations promulgated by the Department or Agency funding this project.
 - State of Texas Debarred Vendor List – <https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/programs/vendor-performance-tracking/debarred-vendors.php>
 - System for Award Management - <https://sam.gov/content/exclusions>

Culturally Competent Victim Restoration

Applicants agree to promote collaboration and coordination among local service systems that involve multiple disciplines and support a seamless delivery of a continuum of services that focus on each individual’s return to full physical, mental, and emotional health while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations. MOUs between Sexual Assault/Dual DV/Multi victim service programs with culturally specific/ community-based groups are great example of partnerships that would provide adequate coverage of sexual assault services and/or innovative healing therapies. For more information and clarification contact TAASA’s Collective Healing Initiative at collectivehealing@taasa.org or Peggy Helton, ARP-SA Grant Administrator at ARP-SA@taasa.org.

Additionally, your organization will be required to upload a Resolution of Governing Body and Job Descriptions for all personnel that will be on this grant.

Required Technical Assistance

All grantees are required to participate in technical assistance with the TAASA ARP-SA Grant staff at least quarterly. Technical assistance is available more frequently at any time upon request.

Funding Decisions and Grant Acceptance

This is a noncompetitive grant. As such, TAASA plans to fund all eligible applicants who apply and submit a viable proposal (award amounts are subject to the application review process, available funding, and demonstrated need).

TAASA ARP-SA Staff will conduct a review of your organization's application and proposed project. Your organization may be contacted in the review process to provide clarification on items listed in your application.

Final decisions on funding, funding levels, and appropriateness of programming will be determined by TAASA. Decisions of TAASA are final and are not subject to appeal.

TAASA will email the funding decision to your listed authorized official along with any corrective action needed to complete the granting process. Once you receive your award, complete the acceptance process ASAP to begin your project and access funds.

Resources for this Grant

Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative

The first large-scale project to address the challenges dual/multi-service programs face in reaching sexual assault survivors by dedicating resources, support, and replicable tools tailored specifically to the needs of those programs. Materials that were developed as part of this project can be found at <https://www.nsvrc.org/sexual-assault-demonstration-initiative>.

National Resources relevant to this grant

- National Health Resource Center of Domestic Violence
 - IPVHealthPartners.org - step-by-step online guide for community health centers on building partnerships with SV and SA advocacy
 - IPVHealth.org - online toolkit for health care providers and DV advocates to prepare a clinical practice to address domestic and sexual violence
- <https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/> - resource for virtual services
- <https://www.techsafety.org/digital-services-during-public-health-crises>

General Technical Assistance

TAASA staff is available for technical assistance throughout the project period of this grant. For assistance contact Peggy Helton at ARP-SA@taasa.org or 512-474-7190, Ext 119.

Collective Healing Initiative (CHI) is a learning project that fosters a network dedicated to the wellness and healing of black, indigenous, and other communities of color. By prioritizing culturally-affirming practices, we hope to support the important work of healing from complex and historical trauma, including sexual violence. For more information on the CHI, visit the website at <https://www.taasachi.org/> or email us at collectivehealing@taasa.org.

One final note: TAASA is committed to fulfilling its obligation as a pass-through entity for this grant. It is our desire to build a strong partnership with funded organizations to ensure the success of this unique grant opportunity. Please reach out early and often if you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity. We are here to assist you. For assistance contact Peggy Helton at arp-sa@taasa.org or 512-474-7190, Ext 119.

Next Steps

- Review this Funding Announcement in its entirety to ensure you have a good understanding of the grant requirements.
- Develop your project using the funding announcement as a tool to plan your activities.
- Reach out early and often to our ARP-SA support team at arp-sa@taasa.org to discuss any questions, you might have about the application, and to help develop your project.
- Use the Grant Application ID provided in your email to gain access to the application. Use the Application Instructions to complete your application.
- Await the funding notification.