



***Funding Announcement***

***Office of the Governor Public Safety Office (PSO)***

***Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Pass-through Grant***

***Grants to Rape Crisis Centers and Culturally Specific Organizations***

***to Provide Services to Survivors of Sexual Violence***

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## Opportunity Snapshot

The Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP) is awarded to states and territories to support rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault and their families.

SASP is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Funds provided through SASP are designed to supplement other funding sources directed at addressing sexual assault on the state and territorial level.

The Office of the Governor receives SASP funding and contracts with the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), as a pass-through agency, to administer the program which includes subcontracting with organization 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.

## Grant Type

*This is a competitive grant with specific eligibility requirements.* TAASA expects to fund approximately 10 – 15 applicants (award amounts are subject to the application review process, scoring, available funding, and demonstrated need).

## Scoring

**Applicants will be scored based on their responses to the questions in the application.**

**Priority will be given through additional points for the following:**

- Statement of philosophy on prioritizing adult survivors of sexual assault that were assaulted by someone other than a family or household member (e.g. date or acquaintances).
- Applicants that demonstrate their ability to improve accessibility of sexual assault services for marginalized and underserved communities.
- Applicants that have a demonstrated record of providing effective services to primarily adult survivors of sexual assault that were assaulted by someone other than a family or household member.
- Applicants that demonstrate their ability to use effective healing methods.
- Applicants that demonstrate their ability to provide culturally affirming/appropriate services (as defined in this funding announcement).
- Applicants who are members of a SART.
- Applicants whose planned activities align fully with the focus of the grant opportunity.

- Applicants that demonstrate they have the capability and financial controls in place to effectively administer this grant.

## Contact Information

For questions on this funding opportunity, contact TAASA's support team at [sasp@taasa.org](mailto:sasp@taasa.org) or call 512-785-8645. This is a competitive grant, so TAASA staff are only able to answer general questions to clarify requirements about programming, priority areas, and grant application questions. TAASA cannot assist with writing a grant or provide pre-assessment of grant proposals.

## Purpose

The purpose of the SASP grant is to support rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault and their families.

This grant opportunity will fund organizations to provide general sexual assault victim services and improve access to culturally specific sexual assault services to primarily adult survivors of sexual assault that was assaulted by someone other than a family or household member.

Exception – these funds can be used to serve a survivor who was assaulted by a family or household member if the survivor seeks services for a sexual assault and the survivor does not qualify for services under Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) family violence program or the survivor is served by a culturally specific organization that does not receive HHSC funding. Domestic violence services unrelated to the sexual assault cannot be provided with these funds.

Projects must fall under one of the following eligible purpose areas:

- General Sexual Assault Victim Services
- Improving accessibility of culturally specific sexual assault services developed for and by said community.

## Program Requirements

Rape crisis centers must provide direct service and effective healing methods to primarily adult survivors of sexual assault.

Culturally specific/community-based organizations must improve access to sexual assault services for marginalized and underserved communities within the population of focus and who was assaulted by someone other than a family or household member.

All applicants must have at least one staff member who is providing direct services to sexual violence survivors on the grant at least 50%.

## Eligible Organizations

TAASA is offering funding to the following organizations with an expected start date of October 1, 2023.

- Rape crisis centers as defined in this funding announcement that:
  - Meet Texas Minimum Services Standards for Sexual Assault Programs in Texas
  - Hold an Office of the Attorney General Sexual Assault Training Program Certification or have applied for an Office of the Attorney General Sexual Assault Training Program Certification and provide a copy of their application and proof of submission (must be certified within 6 months of receiving the grant).
- Culturally specific organizations as defined in this funding announcement and who provide intervention and related services to sexual assault survivors.

## Number of Organizations Funded

It is anticipated that approximately 10 - 15 organizations may be funded under this announcement.

## Funding Opportunity Details

Category	Details
Funds Available	TAASA has allocated over \$1,500,000 per year for fiscal years 2024-2025
Budget Minimum	\$40,000
Budget Maximum	\$150,000
Match Requirement	There is no match requirement for this grant.
Funding Source	Authorized under 35 U.S.C. 12511

\* 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.

## Project Period

The project period begins October 1, 2023 and ends September 30, 2025. The fiscal year for this grant is October 1- September 30.

Initial contracts will be awarded for the Year 1 budget period as identified above. Subsequent years' funding will be distributed via an extension or similar contract amending process. To receive subsequent funding grantees must be in good standing. The SASP Grant Administrator will provide timely information for qualified grantees on this process prior to the end of the first grant year. All SASP funds must be expended by the end of each grant year and cannot be carried over to the next grant year.

## Important Dates

Event	Action Date
Informational Webinars (will be recorded)	August 3, 2023 at 2:00 CDT and August 8, 2023 at 9:30 CDT. *
Funding Announcement Release	June 26, 2023
Online Application Opening Date	July 14, 2023
Final Date to Submit an Application	August 18, 2023
Notice of Awards	September 1, 2023
Project Start Date	October 1, 2023

\*Register for one of the information webinars here:

- 08/03/2023 at 2:00 CDT: <https://taasa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpce-hqT4jE915tFkjpDctrL8GJoEu24Yp>
- 08/08/2023 at 9:30 CDT: <https://taasa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkc-6pqTkqHNy-rXSEcTbKBKbCgajUHlfa>

## Submission Requirements

Applications under this funding announcement must be submitted using Form Assembly. When the application is live, a link will be posted on the Grants Announcement page of TAASA's website at <https://taasa.org/get-involved/announcements/>.

## Definitions

- **24-hour crisis hotline** means a telephone line answered 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by training Sexual Assault Program staff/volunteers and provides immediate, confidential, non-judgmental support, crisis intervention, and information and referrals.
- **Advocacy** means providing assistance on behalf of a survivor of sexual violence with third parties (e.g., schools, employers, law enforcement agencies, housing authorities, healthcare professionals, prosecutors' offices, CVC, etc.)
- **Accompaniment to hospitals, law enforcement offices, prosecutors' offices, and courts** means support, assistance, and provision of information about crime victims' rights during the survivor's interaction with medical or criminal justice professionals at hospitals, law enforcement offices, prosecutors' offices, and courts.
- **Crisis Intervention** means an immediate, supportive response in order to reduce acute distress, to begin stabilization, and to assist in determining next steps.
- **Culturally-affirming/appropriate services** mean services that respect and affirm the lived experiences of individuals that have been marginalized or underserved; where cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; where the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff; where an advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers; where programming is developed by and for a specific community; and where the rape crisis center partners with culturally-specific organizations in service delivery.
- **Culturally specific organizations** mean organizations whose entire programming is developed by and for a specific community.
- **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 (sexual assault program)** means a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal organization, or governmental 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)(30). 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, direct payments, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and family or household members.
- Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim 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 in numbers 1 through 5 above.
- **Underserved Communities** mean populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services.

## Population of Focus

The population of focus is primarily adult survivors of sexual assault who were assaulted by someone other than a family or household member; however, projects can include services to teens/young adults (14-17), particularly survivors in underserved populations.

Exception – these funds can be used to serve a survivor who was assaulted by a family or household member if the survivor seeks services for a sexual assault and the survivor does not qualify for services under the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) family violence program or the survivor is served by a culturally specific organization that does not receive HHSC funding. Domestic violence services unrelated to the sexual assault cannot be provided with these funds.

## Eligible Activities and Costs

The following information contains a list of expenditures and activities appropriate for the focus of this grant.

- Licensed Professional counseling to include individual and group therapy.
- Casework, Non-Licensed Counseling, Individual Advocacy, or Other Support, including but not limited to culturally specific or non-traditional healing modalities.
- Healing programs/modalities to include outside contractors to perform those duties.
- Peer Support Groups.
- 24-Hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referrals to sexual assault survivors.
- Advocacy and Accompaniment through medical, criminal justice and social support systems including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings.

- Crisis intervention and emotional support, short-term individual and group support services, safety planning and comprehensive case management/service coordination, and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and non-offending family or household members.
- Information and referral to assist the adult sexual assault victim 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 in the previous eligible expenses.
- Population-specific focused services that respect the values, behaviors, expectations, and norms of the community at every level of service delivery.
- Agency equipment that is standard use to provide direct services, laptops, telephones, etc.
- Third party payments made on behalf of survivors, items purchased for specific survivors, or supplies kept on hand for survivors not to exceed 10% of the total yearly grant award, are allowable if related to the sexual assault. Allowable expenses include but are not limited to:
  - Replacement bedding, clothing, or other household items.
  - Securing new or temporary housing, including paying a security deposit, first month's rent, or moving expenses if survivor doesn't qualify for Crime Victims Compensation.
  - Travel expenses.
  - Childcare expenses.
  - Food, including culturally appropriate food for individual survivors and their dependent children. Food purchased for distribution during grant activities for refreshments and meals is not allowable.
  - Utility assistance (other than utilities in arrears).
  - Security measures such as re-keying locks, replacing a cell phone, or purchasing a motion detector or security camera that does not require installation.

### Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- Services related to domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking.
- Activities focused on prevention efforts and education (e.g., bystander intervention, social norms campaigns, presentations on healthy relationships, etc.).
- Activities that may compromise victim safety.
- Administrative expenses (directors, executive directors, CEO, CFO, etc.) as well as rent, utilities, insurance, accounting, or other overhead costs cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award (15% for culturally specific organizations.)

- Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law or regulation.
- Cash payments to victims, gift cards, or fuel vouchers.
- Construction, renovation, or remodeling including minor renovations such as painting or carpeting.
- Creation of a voucher program where victims are directly given vouchers for such services as housing or counseling.
- Criminal defense work, including for women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers.
- Criminal justice-related projects, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and forensic interviews.
- Development or presentation of a domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking curriculum for primary or secondary schools (educating students from an existing curriculum would also be prohibited).
- Fundraising,
- Leasing or purchasing vehicles.
- Legal defense services for perpetrators of violence against women.
- Liability insurance on buildings.
- Lobbying.
- Medical services, forensic medical examinations, and prophylaxis.
- Medical training.
- Nonessential maintenance on buildings, including minor renovations, lawn care, landscaping, painting, plumbing and HVAC repair.
- Processing DNA evidence.
- Prosecution of child sexual abuse when the victim is now an adult.
- Providing training to allied professions and the community (e.g., law enforcement, child protection services, prosecution, other community-based organizations, etc.).
- Purchase of real property.
- Reimbursement to crime victims for expenses incurred as a result of a crime, such as insurance deductibles, replacement of stolen property, funeral expenses, lost wages, and medical bills.
- Research projects. Funds under this program may not be used to conduct research, defined in 28 C.R.F. 46.102 as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Surveys and focus groups, depending on their design and purpose, may constitute research and therefore be out-of-scope. Prohibited research does not include assessments conducted for internal improvement purposes only. Applicants considering such assessments must refer to the OVW research decision tree in the Solicitation Companion Guide to ensure that the activity does not qualify as human subjects research: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>.

- Services to incarcerated individuals, including re-entry rehabilitative services related to the crime for which they are incarcerated.
- Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examiner programs.
- Sexual Assault Response Team coordination.
- Victim-offender meetings that serve to replace (or as a part of) criminal justice proceedings.

## 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.

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 15<sup>th</sup> of every month via **SalesForce Communities**. One 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 SASP funds. All programs will receive a financial assessment and an on-site review of their program operations at least once during the entire 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 as noted in the chart below. Additional information may be required. A reporting template will be provided after the award.

#### **Year 1**

Quarter	Report Period	Report Due
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	October 1 – November 30, 2023	December 14, 2023
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	December 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024	March 14, 2024
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	March 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024	June 14, 2024
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	June 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024	September 14, 2024

#### **Year 2**

Quarter	Report Period	Report Due
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	September 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024	December 14, 2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	December 1, 2024 – February 29, 2025	March 14, 2025
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025	June 14, 2025

4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	June 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025	September 14, 2025
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Quarterly performance reports may include but are not limited to information on services provided to survivors of sexual violence, successes, challenges, and other data that shows the impact in the community because of this project.

In addition to quarterly reports, an annual report will be required. Information on due dates, reporting periods, and the forms needed to complete the report will be provided by TAASA sometime in January of each grant year with a due date in February. The annual report will include January of the previous year through December of the current grant year.

Grantees will be required to complete a client assistance tracking log for any third-party payments made on behalf of survivors or items purchased for specific survivors. TAASA will provide the tracking log template.

### 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>.
- Accessibility – recipients of these funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which among other things, prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and national origin. Compliance with these laws includes taking reasonable steps to ensure that persons who are limited in their English proficiency because of their national origin have meaningful access to recipients’ programs and activities. Recipients are also responsible for ensuring that their programs and activities are readily accessible to individuals with disabilities, including those with physical or cognitive disabilities, as well as individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery - Applicant agrees to not engage in activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or

emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

- Applicable to all grants - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) The TAC includes regulations issued by the State of Texas. Title I, Part I, Chapter 3 of the TAC specifically applies to PSO. HSGD has adopted these rules by reference.
- Applicable to grants from a federal fund source - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements. Found in the Code of Federal Regulations, these rules were issued by the White House Office of Management and Budget. PSO adopts these rules for all federally funded grants. Throughout the Guide to Grants, these rules are referred to as 2 CFR 200.
- 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.
- Civil Rights Liaison - A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with PSO and with the federal Office of Justice Programs. Grantee agrees to provide the name of the Civil Rights Liaison in the application.
- Community Efforts - Applicant agrees to promote community efforts to aid crime victims. Applicants should promote, within the community, coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims. Coordination efforts qualify an organization to receive these funds but are not activities that can be supported with these funds.
- Confidentiality and Privacy - Applicant agrees to maintain the confidentiality of client-counselor information and research data, as required by state and federal law. Personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied may not be disclosed; or reveal individual client information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person about whom information is sought. If release of information is compelled by statutory or court mandate, reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information will be made and steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information will be taken.

- Criminal Charges - In connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence offense, the victim may not bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against a domestic violence offender, issuance or service of a warrant, or witness subpoena.
- Criminal History Reporting - Entities receiving funds from PSO must be in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66*. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.
- 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 is a great example of a partnership 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](mailto:collectivehealing@taasa.org) or Annette Burrhus-Clay, Grant Manager at [sasp@taasa.org](mailto:sasp@taasa.org).
- Discrimination - Applicant agrees not to discriminate against victims because they disagree with the State's prosecution of the criminal case.
- 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.
  - Immigration Legal Services - PSO prioritizes funding projects that provide a full spectrum of counseling, crisis services, and other direct victim services. PSO will not fund projects that focus primarily on immigration legal services and do not provide a significant level of other types of victim services.
  - 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).
  - 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 SASP funds. Currently, programs are on rotation and may receive a financial assessment no more than once every two-year grant cycle. (Technical Assistance is available if you need help getting your financial systems set up.)
  - No Charge - Applicant agrees to provide grant-funded services at no charge to victims of crime. Applicants are also prohibited from billing Crime Victims Compensation, private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare for services provided using SASP funds.
  - Offender Firearm Prohibition - The applicant certifies that its judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders of the requirements delineated in section 18 USC § 992(g)(8) and (g)(9).
  - Polygraph Testing Prohibition - A peace officer or attorney representing the state may not require an adult or child victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense. In addition, the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling examination will not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense or on the basis of the results of a polygraph examination.
  - Population of Focus - Grantee certifies that the funds will be used to provide services to the population of focus as defined in the Funding Announcement. The Grantee further certifies that the funds will not be used for domestic violence, child abuse, or human trafficking services.
  - Protection Orders - Victims applying for a protective order or their attorney may not bear the costs associated with the filing of an order of protection.
- 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>.
- Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) - Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year by the deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted.
- Violence Against Women Act Non-Discrimination Provision – prohibits grantees from excluding, denying benefits to, or discriminating against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identify, sexual orientation, or disability in any program or activity funded in whole or in part by OVW.

[Administrative expenses](#) - (directors, executive directors, CEO, CFO, etc.) as well as rent, utilities, insurance, accounting, or other overhead costs cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award for rape crisis centers or 15% of your total grant award for culturally specific organizations.

[Third-party Payment on Behalf of Survivors, Items purchased for specific survivors, or supplies kept on hand for survivors](#) – must be related to the sexual assault and cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.

Travel and training costs - must relate to the direct services for grantees and cannot exceed 15% of your total grant award.

### Required Documents that Must be Uploaded with the Application:

- A Resolution of Governing Body.
- Job Descriptions for all personnel that will be on this grant.
- Your organization's Office of the Attorney General Sexual Assault Training Program Certification certificate or your organization's Office of the Attorney General Sexual Assault Training Program Certification application with proof of submission (for organizations applying as rape crisis centers).
- A Work Plan and a Year 1 Budget using an Excel document template provided by TAASA.

### Required Technical Assistance

All grantees are required to participate in technical assistance with the TAASA SASP Grant staff at least bi-annually (virtually or in-person). Technical assistance is available more frequently at any time upon request.

### Funding Decisions and Grant Acceptance

This is a competitive grant. As such, TAASA plans to fund approximately 10 - 15 applicants (award amounts are subject to the application review process, scoring, available funding, and demonstrated need).

TAASA will use outside scorers to score and rank the applicants. Once scored, SASP 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 awardees are notified, 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>.

### **General Technical Assistance**

TAASA staff is available for technical assistance throughout the project period of this grant. For assistance contact [sasp@taasa.org](mailto:sasp@taasa.org) or 512-785-8645.

**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](mailto: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 to the SASP Support Team at [sasp@taasa.org](mailto:sasp@taasa.org) if you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity.

[Helpful Grant Application Documents](#) - the following grant application documents will be available when the application goes live on July 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be posted on the Grant Announcement Page of TAASA's website at: <https://taasa.org/get-involved/announcements/>.

- Grant Application Questions – these are the questions that will be asked to respond to during the application process.
- Grant Application Instructions – this is a companion document to the Grant Application Questions and provides detailed instructions on how to fill out the application.
- Work Plan and Application Budget Templates.
- Sample Resolution of Governing Body – this is a sample of a Resolution of Governing Body that you can use if needed.

### [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.
- Use the link to Form Assembly that will be posted on TAASA's Grant Announcement webpage to complete your application.
- Await the funding decision. TAASA expects to send notification of the decision about this grant opportunity by September 1, 2023.

## About PSO and TAASA

- **PSO** - our mission at the Public Safety Office is to direct much needed resources to those who are making Texas a safer place and those who help victims of crime to recover and feel safe again. In carrying out this mission, we are committed to helping our grantees by actively finding ways for them to accomplish their goals and by making sure that we always have our eye on identifying the approaches that work best. We envision positive and beneficial working relationships with our grantees where we provide as much assistance as is needed and where we are always ready with answers, not burdensome restrictions, or requirements.
- **TAASA** - The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault is committed to ending sexual violence in Texas through education, prevention, and advocacy. In the meantime, we desire to support survivors on their paths to hope, healing and justice. TAASA is the voice of the sexual assault movement in Texas. We are a unifying force bringing together parties involved in and affected by sexual assault as a catalyst for change.