



## ***Funding Announcement***

### ***American Rescue Plan***

#### ***Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault (ARP-SA), Offering 3***

*Pilot Projects to Support Non-profit Organizations that are Rape Crisis Centers, Stand-alone Rape Crisis Centers, or Dual Programs Seeking to Build a Strong Program to Serve Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence, Provide Minimum Services, Meet the Definition of a Sexual Assault Program in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 420, Meet Minimum Services Standards for Sexual Assault Program in Texas, and Apply for a Sexual Assault Training Program Certification through the Office of the Attorney General.*

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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 3.

## Grant Type

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

## Evaluation of Applications

Applications will be evaluated and selected based on their responses to the questions in the application. Priority will be given through additional points for the following:

- Applicants whose planned activities align fully with the purpose of this grant opportunity.
- 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 are committed to meeting the Minimum Services Standards for Texas Sexual Assault Programs by the end of the project period.
- Applicants that are committed to applying for the Office of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Training Certification by the end of the project period.
- Applicants that are a member of a Sexual Assault Response Team in the county in which they plan to provide services.
- Applicants that provide services for survivors of sexual violence served through the Tex-TRAC Statewide SANE Telehealth Program.
- Applicants that demonstrate their ability to provide culturally affirming/appropriate services (as defined in the funding announcement).
- Applicants that provide a letter of support from a SART or one other community organization whose partnership is important to meeting the goals of this grant.
- 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 [arp-sa@taasa.org](mailto:arp-sa@taasa.org) or call 512-474-7190, ext. 119. This is a competitive grant, so TAASA staff are only able to answer general questions to clarify requirements about programming and grant application questions. TAASA staff cannot assist with writing a grant or provide pre-assessment of grant proposals.

## Purpose of the ARP-SA Federal Grant Program

The overall purpose of the federal 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.

## Purpose of this Grant Opportunity

TAASA is making this grant opportunity available to provide funding, technical assistance, and support to non-profit organizations that meet the definition of a rape crisis center, a stand-alone rape crisis center, or a dual program as defined in this application kit and that are committed to building a strong sexual assault program for primarily adult survivors of sexual violence who were assaulted by someone other than a family or household member. The purpose is to help such organizations: provide all Minimum Services; meet the Definition of a Sexual Assault Program in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 420; meet Minimum Services Standards for Sexual Assault Program in Texas; and apply for a Sexual Assault Training Program Certification through the Office of the Attorney General by the end of the grant period.

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.

## Eligible Organizations

TAASA is offering funding to the following groups with an expected start date of October 1, 2023: Non-profit organizations that meet the definition of a rape crisis center, a stand-alone rape crisis center or a dual program as defined in this application kit and that:

- Currently provide some of the following minimum services, as defined in this application kit, to adult survivors of sexual violence: a 24-hour crisis hotline; crisis

intervention; public education; advocacy; and accompaniment to hospitals, law enforcement offices, prosecutors' offices, and courts.

- Can provide confidential communications as described in the Texas Government Code, Chapter 420, Subchapter D. Confidential Communications and records.
- Serve adult survivors of sexual violence who were assaulted by someone other than a family or household member.

And **do not**:

- have an active grant through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services grant program with the Office of the Attorney General; or
- currently operate, or have not historically operated, a Children's Advocacy Center, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners program, or any type of forensic collection services program, or currently provide services for any other type of crimes except sexual assault and domestic violence, within the same organization or under the same umbrella organization; or
- have an active ARP-SA Grant with TAASA.

**TAASA, in its capacity as a pass-through agency for these funds, retains full rights to determine the eligibility of all Applicants.**

## Number of Organizations Funded

It is anticipated that approximately 2 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	\$125,000/year
Budget Maximum	\$175,000/year
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 the first year of your grant and projected budget amount and brief summary of planned activities for the second year of your grant.

## Project Period

The project period for this grant opportunity begins October 1, 2023 and ends September 30, 2025. Each fiscal year (FY) begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Initial contracts will be awarded for one year, with the second-year 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 the first 12-month grant period. Grantees may request to carry over unspent funds from their first grant year to their second grant year with prior approval from TAASA. The amount of funds approved for carryover will be determined by TAASA after review of the grantees' requested amount, how the grantee plans to use the funds, and effective use of prior years' funding.

All ARP-SA Grant, Offering 3 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 from FY 24 in FY 25 during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of your first grant year.

## Important Dates, ARP-SA Grant, Offering 3

Event	Action Date
Informational Session (will be recorded)	August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (CDT) and August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00 – 11:30 (CDT)
Funding Announcement Release	July 14, 2023
Online Application Opening Date	August 3, 2023
Letter of Intent to apply for this grant (Applicant sends an email to <a href="mailto:arp-sa@taasa.org">arp-sa@taasa.org</a> detailing your intent to apply for this grant)*	August 10, 2023
Final Date to Submit an Application	September 1, 2023. 11:59 p.m. CST
Notice of Awards	September 22, 2023
Project Start Date	October 1, 2023

**Applicants are strongly encouraged to send a letter of intent to [arp-sa@taasa.org](mailto:arp-sa@taasa.org) stating your organization's intent to apply for this grant.**

**Register for one of the informational sessions here:**

08/08/2023 at 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Register here:

<https://taasa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkc--upjMsGN0FD7ag3MS3C6cnETFQmltZ>

08/09/2023 at 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Register here:

<https://taasa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pfu-qqDsuHNLArZ-4MpZIFaxy3g8i69M2>

## 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 at

<https://taasa.org/get-involved/announcements/>.

## Definitions

- **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 were the rape crisis center partners with culturally-specific organizations in service delivery.
- **Dual program** means a non-profit organization that meets the definition of a rape crisis center as defined in this application kit and also operates a family violence program and/or a family violence shelter within the same organization or under the same umbrella organization.
- **Funding agency** means TAASA.
- **Minimum Services** means all the following:
  - 24-hour crisis hotline, means a telephone line answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by trained Sexual Assault Program staff/volunteer.
  - Crisis intervention means an immediate, supportive response in order to reduce acute distress, to begin stabilization, and to assist in determining next steps.
  - Public education means workshops, speaking engagements, and distribution of printed materials related to the dynamics of sexual violence, its causes and consequences, and of services available through the sexual assault program.  
**Note:** While public education is a minimum service and is an allowable activity under this grant, it should not be a major focus of this pilot project. Education expenses (salary, fringe, education materials, etc.) cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.
  - Advocacy means assistance on behalf of a survivor of sexual violence with third parties (e.g., schools, employers, law enforcement agencies, housing authorities, healthcare professionals, prosecutor's office, CVC).

- Accompaniment to hospitals, law enforcement offices, prosecutors' offices, and courts means in-person 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. To qualify as an Accompaniment to a Hospital a minimum of 45 minutes must be spent with the survivor.
- **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).
- **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 serves survivors of sexual violence only 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** mean 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 services mean** the use of electronic devices, such as computers, tablets, and smartphones, to provide services for survivors through a secure platform.

## Programming

**Population of focus** – survivors of sexual assault who are primarily adults and who were assaulted by someone other than a family or household member; however, projects can include services to teens/young adults (13-17), particularly survivors in underserved populations, those needing assistance to meet basic needs, and/or those with safety concerns related to COVID-19.

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.

**Grantees will use funding for any of the following activities that will best position them to meet the goals of this grant:**

- 24-hour crisis hotline
- Advocacy (includes mobile advocacy)
- Accompaniment to hospitals, law enforcement offices, prosecutors' offices, and courts
- Administrative expenses including but not limited to: rent, utilities, bookkeeping software and support, staffing, phone, office equipment, supplies, and personal protection equipment.
- Costs associated with assessing the capacity of Applicants to develop emergency operations plans including but not limited to review of job descriptions, policy and procedures, strategic planning, and technical assistance and training.
- Costs associated with protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of survivor services information, included safeguarding data from accidental or intentional disclosure.
- Costs associated with strengthening partnerships with hospitals, law enforcements agencies, or community-based organization that are vital to the Applicant's ability to meet minimum service standards.
- Crisis intervention

- Development of materials to increase awareness of services especially for underserved and non-English speaking populations
- Incentives - hiring, retention, 2<sup>nd</sup>-language skills, experience working with un/underserved communities or wellness. Incentives cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.
- IT equipment that promotes access for survivors and staff with disabilities
- Public education related to the dynamics of sexual violence or available services  
*Note: While public education is a minimum service and is an allowable activity under this grant, it should not be a major focus of this pilot project. Education expenses (salary, fringe, education materials, etc.) cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.*
- 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 including mobile technology.
- Roadside assistance plans for employees whose positions require significant travel.
- Survivor support including, third-party payments made on behalf of survivors, items purchased for specific survivors, or supplies kept on hand for survivors. These items must be related to the sexual assault and cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.

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

- Services related to domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking (does not prevent a grantee from serving a victim of sex trafficking if they present seeking services for a sexual assault).
- Activities focused on prevention education (e.g., bystander intervention, social norms campaigns, presentations on healthy relationships, etc.).
- 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 reasonably 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 are 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 is lobbying are unallowable (2 CFR 200.454).
- Organization costs – costs associated with the establishment or reorganization of an organization (2 CFR 200.455).
- Payment for forensic medical examination or collection of any forensic evidence.
- 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, and Grant Monitoring

### 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 or items purchased for specific 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 3 funds. All programs will receive a financial assessment and an on-site review of their program operations at least once during the two-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 2024.

Quarter	Report Period	Report Due
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	October 1 – December 31, 2023	January 31, 2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024	April 28, 2024
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024	July 28, 2024
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024	October 31, 2024

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 or for items purchased for specific survivors.

In addition to quarterly reports, an annual report will be required. The annual report will be due October 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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.
- 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).
- Monitoring – Grantee agrees to permit on-site monitoring visits and desk reviews, as deemed necessary by HHSC or TAASA to review all financial or other records and management control system relevant to the provision of services under this grant.



- 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.
- 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 to provide services related to domestic violence, child abuse, or human trafficking (this restriction does not prevent a grantee from serving a victim of sex trafficking if they present seeking services for a sexual assault).
- Requirement for Survivors 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>

**Education expenses** - while public education is a minimum service and is an allowable activity under this grant, it should not be a major focus of this pilot project. Education expenses (salary, fringe, education materials, etc.) cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.

**Incentives** - hiring, retention, 2<sup>nd</sup>-language skills, experience working with un/underserved communities or wellness are allowable; however, incentives cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.

**Survivor support** including, third-party payments made on behalf of survivors, items purchased for specific survivors, or supplies kept on hand for survivors are allowable.



These items must be related to the sexual assault and cannot exceed 10% of your total grant award.

### **Required Technical Assistance**

All grantees are required to participate in technical assistance with the TAASA TA staff at least monthly. Technical assistance is available more frequently at any time.

### **Sexual Assault Training Program Certification**

All grantees are required to apply for an OAG Sexual Assault Training Program Certification by the end of the project period.

### **Travel Policies**

All grantees are required to comply with HHSC's Travel Policies.

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

- A Resolution of Governing Body. A link to a sample resolution is located in the Application Questions document, the Application Instructions document, and in the Application form.
- Job Descriptions for all personnel that will be on this grant.
- A Work Plan and a Year 1 Budget using an Excel document template provided by TAASA. A link to the template is located in the Application Questions document, the Application Instructions document, and in the Application form.

## **Optional Documents to be Uploaded with the Application:**

- Letter of commitment, while not required, will be used as a tool to evaluate the organization's commitment to meeting the requirements of this grant. The letter of commitment should be specific to meeting the Minimum Services Standards and for applying for the Office of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Training Certification by the end of the project period. The letter of commitment should be signed by at least the Executive Director of the organization and the Board President.
- Support Documents from a SART or community organization whose partnership is important to reach the goals of this grant, while not required, will be used as a tool to evaluate the capacity of the Applicant to implement grant activities. Support documents should be signed and dated by the individuals providing each document and by the Applicant. Support documents should at a minimum contain the following components:
  - A statement of the need for services to survivors of sexual violence, a description of your current relationship, and a brief summary of how the organization and your agency will work together to meet the goals of this grant.

## Funding Decisions and Grant Acceptance

This is a competitive grant. As such, TAASA plans to fund approximately two applications. Awards are subject to the application review process, evaluation of the applications, available funding, and demonstrated need.

TAASA will use outside evaluators to score and rank the applications. Once scored, 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 eligibility, 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 authorized official as identified in your organization's grant application 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

Minimum Service Standards for Sexual Assault Programs in Texas,  
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/divisions/grants/Minimum-Service-Standards.pdf>

Tips and Strategies for Meeting the Minimum Services Standards for Sexual Assault Program in Texas, <http://taasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Tips-Strategies-RCC-Standards.pdf>.

Texas Government Code, Chapter 420 – definition of a sexual assault program, minimum services, and confidential communications,  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.420.htm>

Office of the Attorney General Sexual Assault Training Program,  
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims/information-victim-services-professionals/sexual-assault-prevention-and-crisis-services-sapcs/sexual-assault-training-program-certification-satp>.

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 ARP-SA Support staff are available for technical assistance throughout the project period of this grant. For assistance contact Peggy Helton at [ARP-SA@taasa.org](mailto: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](mailto:collectivehealing@taasa.org).

## 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>

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 ARP-SA Support Team at [ARP-SA@taasa.org](mailto:ARP-SA@taasa.org) if you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity.

**Helpful Links to Grant Application Documents** – links to the following grant materials will be posted on TAASA’s Announcements page at <https://taasa.org/get-involved/announcements/>:

- Grant Application Questions Offering 3 – these are the questions that will be asked in the application.
- Grant Application Instructions Offering 3 – this is a companion document to the Grant Application Questions and provides detailed instructions on how to fill out the application.
- FY 2023 ARP-SA Grant Offering 3 Work Plan and Application Budget Templates. The link to the Work Plan and Application Budget will be included in the Grant Application Questions document, the Grant Application Instructions document, and in the Application form.
- Sample Resolution of Governing Body – this is a sample of a Resolution of Governing Body that you can use if needed. A link to a sample Resolution of Governing Body will be included in the Grant Application Questions, the Grant Application Instructions documents, and in the Application form.

- Application - this is the form that you will use to apply for this grant (developed in Form Assembly). When the form is live, the link to the application will be posted on TAASA's announcement page.

## Next Steps

1. Review this Funding Announcement in its entirety to ensure you have a good understanding of the grant requirements.
2. **Attend one of the information sessions about this grant opportunity or watch the recording.**
3. **Submit an email stating that you intend to apply for this grant opportunity by August 10, 2023. Send the email to [arp-sa@taasa.org](mailto:arp-sa@taasa.org).**
4. Develop your project using the funding announcement as a tool to plan your activities.
5. To complete your application, use the link to the Application which will be posted on TAASA's Announcement page.
6. Await the funding notification.
7. Reach out to TAASA ARP-SA Support Staff at [arp-sa@taasa.org](mailto:arp-sa@taasa.org) with any questions on this grant opportunity.