

FVPSA awarded \$11.5 million to TAASA to support survivors of sexual assault in the wake of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In 2022, we implemented subgrants to programs whose primary purpose is to provide direct intervention and related assistance to survivors of sexual assault with a focus on underserved communities, including stand-alone rape crisis centers (RCCs), dual sexual assault/domestic violence programs (dual programs), and culturally specific organizations.*

PURPOSE OF GRANT

- Assist with the transition to virtual/remote services for programs providing services to survivors
- Respond to increased emergency needs of survivors as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency

KEY GOALS

- Build organizational capacity & infrastructure
- Enhance virtual services
- Plan for pandemic/disaster preparation
- Provide staff incentives for hiring, retention, and wellness
- Establish mobile advocacy units
- Provide direct support on behalf of survivors
- Develop culturally responsive programming for underserved communities

SUBGRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

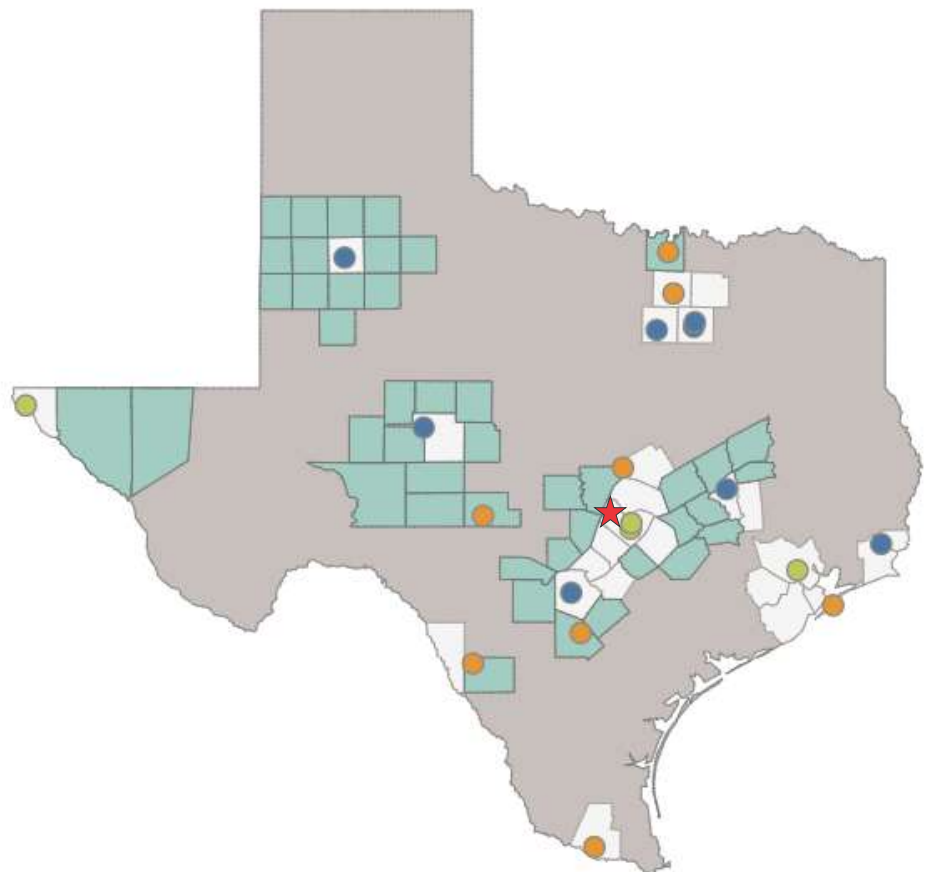
REACH

- 24 Grants
- 20 Organizations
- 69 Counties served, including...
- 44 Rural counties
- 6 Border counties

KEY

- Stand-alone RCCs
- Dual Programs
- Culturally Specific Organizations*
- Rural counties
- Non-rural counties
- ★ TAASA Office

**Culturally specific organizations: programming is developed entirely by and for a specific community.*



APPROACH

OFFERINGS

We offered three waves of grants, referred to as Offerings, two of which began in FY23.

1

Start Date: October 1, 2022

Focus: Stand-alone RCCs and Culturally Specific Organizations, four Focus Areas

Year 1 Budget: \$115,000 - \$175,000

16 subgrants at 12 organizations

Noncompetitive

2

Start Date: April 1, 2023

Focus: Mobile Advocacy and Partnerships in underserved communities

Year 1 Budget: \$43,850 - \$65,000

8 subgrants at 8 organizations

Competitive

FOCUS AREAS

Mobile Advocacy and Partnerships: support staff and resources to begin or maintain in-community mobile advocacy programs as well as partnerships with healthcare and behavioral health providers.

Emergent Survivor Needs: provide shelter, rental assistance, transportation assistance, relocation and moving costs to

COVID-19 Mitigation: sustain staffing and supplies to operate safely in-person and to better support mitigation, contracting with emergency preparedness consultants.

Enhance Remote Services: improve technology and infrastructure to expand or maintain virtual/remote services

SUBGRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS

Mobile Advocacy and Partnerships (14)

Abigail's Arms Cooke County Family Crisis Center
Aware Central Texas
Denton County Friends of the Family
Hill Country Crisis Council (Hill Country CARES)
Mama Sana Vibrant Woman**
Open Arms Rape Crisis Center and LGBT+ Services*
Organización Latina Trans in Texas* **
The Rape Crisis Center (*San Antonio*)
Rape & Suicide Crisis of Southeast Texas, Inc.
Resource Crisis Center of Galveston County
Safer Path Family Violence Shelter, Inc.
Voice of Hope* (*Lubbock*)
Wintergarden Women's Shelter
Women Together/Mujeres Unidas Family Justice Center

Enhance Remote Services (5)

Asian Family Support Services of Austin**
Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center
Sexual Assault Resource Center (*Bryan*)
The Turning Point, Rape Crisis Center of Collin County
The Women's Center of Tarrant County*

Emergent Survivor Needs (3)

Open Arms Rape Crisis Center and LGBT+ Services*
Organización Latina Trans in Texas* **
Voice of Hope* (*Lubbock*)

COVID-19 Mitigation (2)

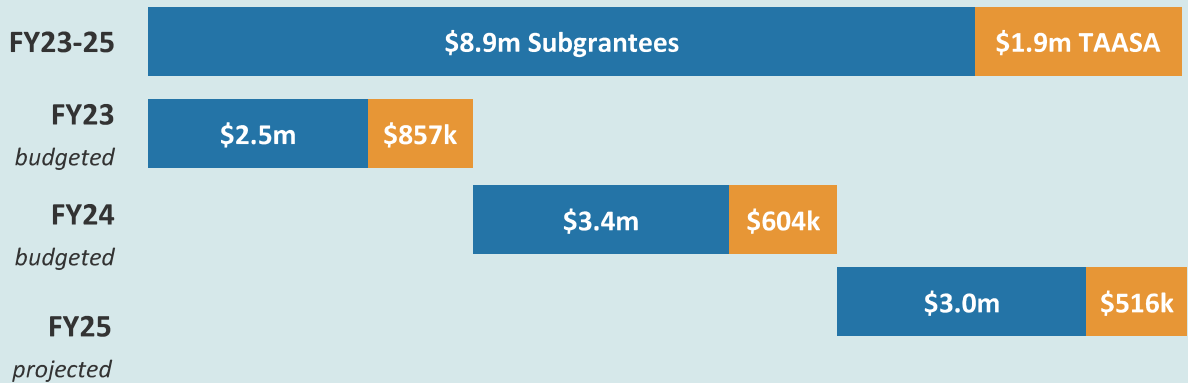
Borderland Rainbow Center**
The Women's Center of Tarrant County*

* Four organizations chose to divide their ARP-SA funds into two focus areas.

** Culturally specific organization.

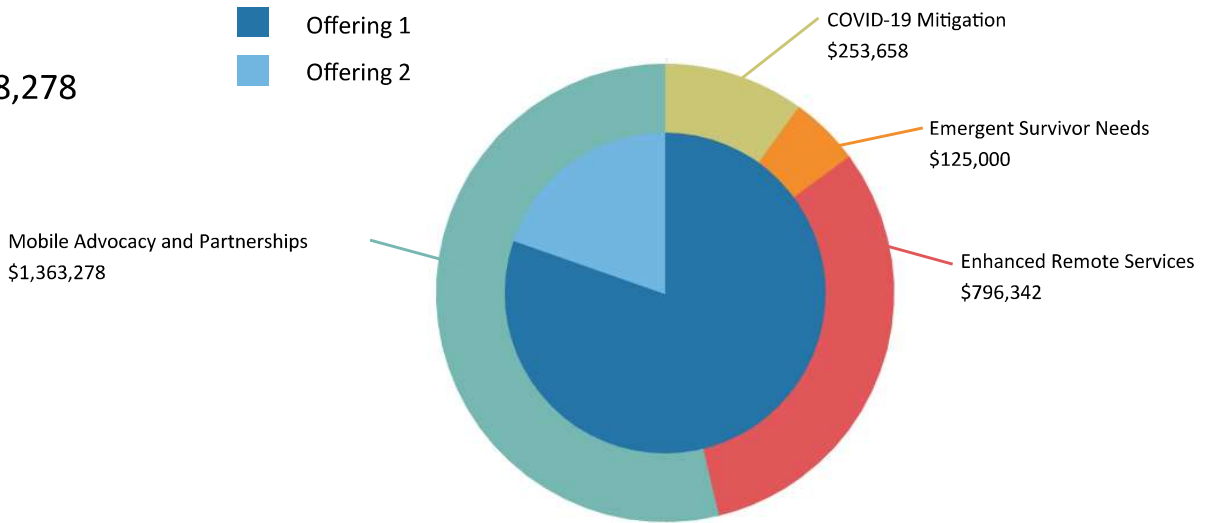
BUDGET

WHERE WERE FUNDS ALLOCATED?



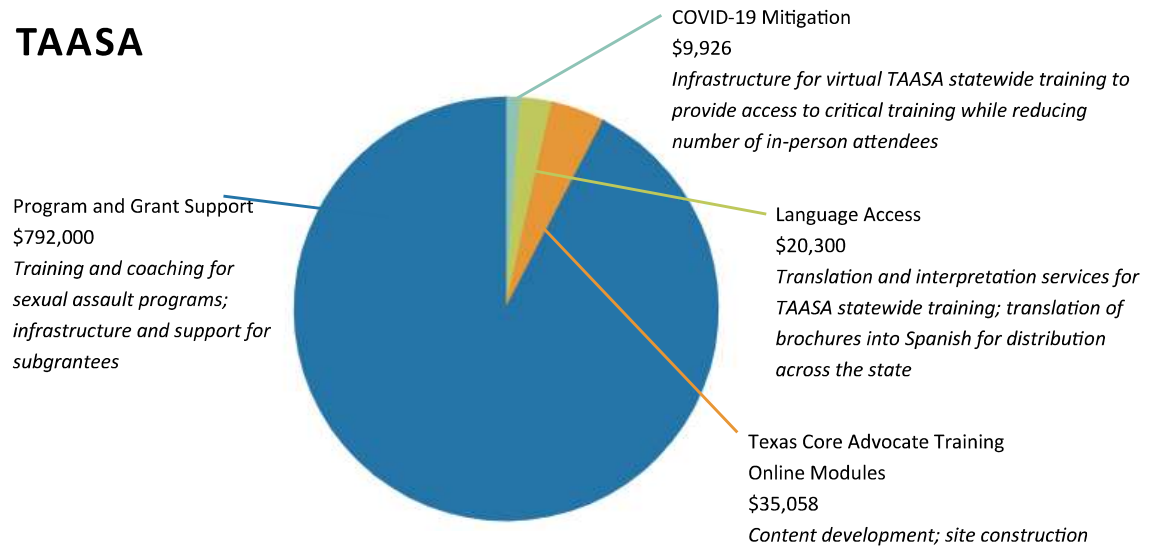
FY23 BUDGET: SUBGRANTEES

Total:
\$2,538,278



FY23 BUDGET: TAASA

Total:
\$857,284



IMPACT: TAASA

Provided technical assistance and training

TAASA provided nearly 160 instances of technical assistance (TA) and training to agencies serving survivors, with a focus on culturally specific, rural, and border programs, including ARP-SA subgrantees. TA and Training focused on:

- Increasing access to services for traditionally underserved populations;
- Expanding and standardizing the quality and accessibility of trauma informed responses by agencies and community partners;
- Ensuring grant compliance and use of financial policy best practices;
- Implementing telehealth, teleSANE and virtual access to services; and
- Planning for COVID-19 and disaster mitigation and response.

Staff developed infrastructure for ARP-SA grant implementation and administrative processes while also capturing quality data related to program impact and outcomes. This included development of a robust online grantee portal to track and report expenditures, manage budgets, and house important information related to grant requirements.

Developed online Texas Core Advocate Training

To date, TAASA has finalized 8.5 hours of online modules of a planned 20 hours of training that the OAG allows sexual assault programs to incorporate into their curriculums and meet OAG SATP Certification requirements. TAASA's online training will assist sexual assault programs to meet their OAG SATP requirements, standardize and improve core services, mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and increase access to advocates for survivors during a SANE exam.

The Sexual Assault Training Program (SATP) Certification by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) offers certification for sexual assault training programs to prepare organizations to provide all minimum services as defined in the Texas Government Code, Section 420.003 (1-e) and satisfy the statutory requirements related to when an advocate is present during a SANE exam.

Facilitated virtual track of 2023 TAASA statewide training

TAASA worked to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and increase access to trainings by developing and hosting a virtual track as part of TAASA's statewide training. Workshops focused on increasing the capacity of sexual assault and culturally specific organizations to implement trauma-informed services, standardize the level of survivor support, reach underserved populations, and explore best practices for supporting staff. The training hosted just over 100 virtual attendees, many from rural or underserved areas.

Enhanced language access for survivors and service providers

TAASA enhanced language access by:

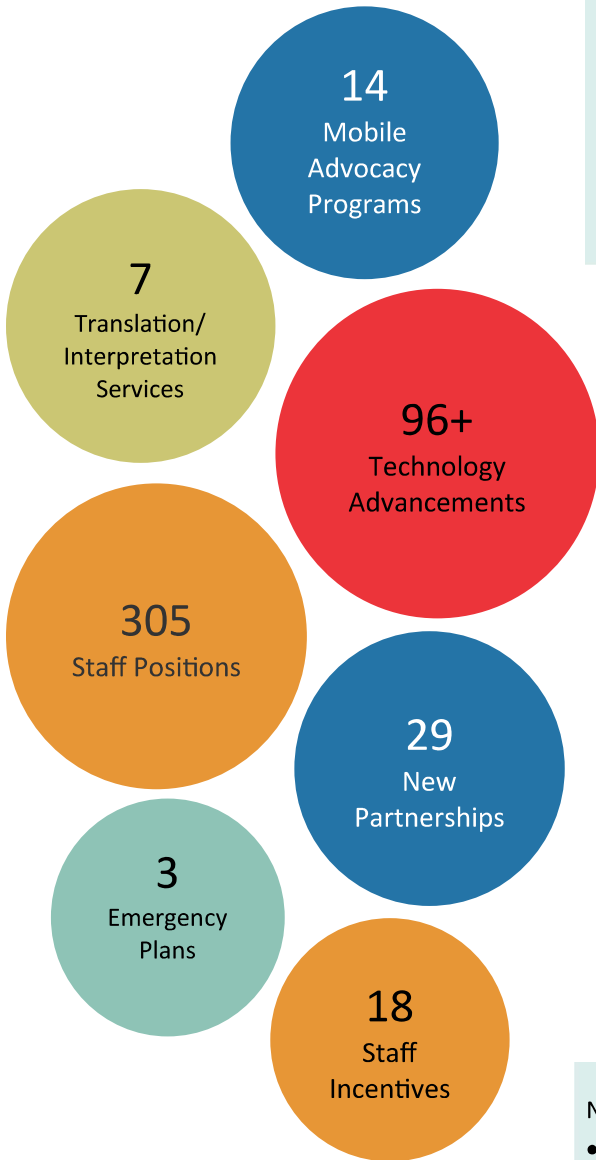
- Securing interpreters and Spanish language workshops at TAASA statewide training;
- Supporting monolingual ARP-SA grantee via TAASA's Language Access team, interpreters, and translators;
- Providing Spanish-language brochures and guidebooks for sexual assault programs to broaden outreach to underserved communities.

Fostered key partnerships

TAASA fostered key partnerships between hospitals, law enforcement, advocates, and other community partners by supporting expansion of Tex-TRAC online Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program and implementation of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs).

The Tex-TRAC SANE program provides access to medical services and examinations for survivors in rural communities, allowing them to receive trauma-informed care in their own communities and increases access to while mitigating COVID-19 spread. SARTs work to coordinate first responders' and communities' response to a sexual assault.

IMPACT: SUBGRANTEES



To develop in-community mobile advocacy programs, subgrantees prioritized hiring advocates from the communities they serve in order to expand services into new or rural counties.

Organizations highlighted their ability to reach survivors in community and connect them back to counseling and other support services offered virtually or in-person.

Upgrades to technology allowed organizations to enhance remote services, which elevated their ability to support survivors as well as the efficiency and security of the technology systems used in the process.

For example, these upgrades allowed the ability for advocates to conduct an intake or client assessment in the field and quickly refer them to other services with the agency like counseling.

Developing and strengthening new partnerships allowed subgrantees to:

- Expand hospital and law enforcement accompaniment
- Work with newly developed TeleSANE programs through the Tex-TRAC program
- Lead and attend Sexual Assault Response Team meetings (SARTs)
- Partner to create a Spanish Speaking Health Services Network
- Offer M-pox and COVID Boosters for survivors

New staff positions included:

- 17 Advocates
- 5 Bilingual roles

Staff Incentive programs included:

- 13 Hiring & Retention
- 4 Wellness

SERVICES TO SURVIVORS

2632 Unique Survivors Served

Virtual and in-person services are combined due to a reporting limitation. This detail of service numbers will be separate in FY24.



IMPACT: SUBGRANTEES

Plan for pandemic/disaster preparation

Grantees developed emergency operation plans for: enhancing service delivery; increasing accessibility of trauma-informed services; updating organizational policies, procedures, clarifying staff roles and responsibilities, and building strategies for recruiting, hiring, and retaining staff. They will implement their plans in FY 24.

Enhance virtual services

“Life-changing” is how one agency described this grant.. They, among several other grantees, used funds to enhance technology resulting in increasing their ability to serve clients in community by providing online assessments/intakes with clients, virtual advocacy and counseling services, and expanding services to Spanish- speaking communities.

Establish mobile advocacy units

To establish effective mobile advocacy units, grantees hired staff from the communities they were serving, opened up satellite offices, partnered with other social service agencies, and expanded advocacy into underserved communities in their service areas and in new neighboring counties.

Provide staff incentives

Several grantees provided retention, recruitment, and wellness incentives. One organization reported that since they implemented retention incentives, they have not had any staff turnover. Other grantees reported that hiring incentives increased their ability to hire for positions that were hard to fill such as advocates or counselors.

Develop culturally responsive programming

One culturally specific organization used funds to provide emergency housing and culturally responsive healing for survivors who are trans-LGBTQ+ Latinx. This organization’s founder and director was paid for the first time using these funds. Another organization hired community access staff to build a presence in rural communities, connect with survivors; and work on establishing internal referral procedures to increase/enhance access to services.

Provide direct support on behalf of survivors

Several organizations used funds to provide third-party payments on behalf of clients including payment of phone bills for survivors that needed to be reachable during job searches, hotel stays, bus tickets for survivors to relocate, and rent for clients facing eviction and homelessness. **There are no other grants available that allow for the reimbursement of these emergency expenses for survivors of sexual assault.**

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

875

Language access

Survivors served via language line, interpretation, or bilingual staff

264

LGBTQ+ Survivors

720

Culturally specific services

Services that affirm survivor’s culture and effectively address language and communication barriers.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Tim Love, Director of Finance, Grants and Partnerships
Peggy Helton, Grants Administrator
Marisa Thomassie, Grant Systems Specialist
Roger Hingorani, Nonprofit Compliance Auditor

CONTACT

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TAASA serves as the Texas ARP-SA passthrough agency with support and oversight from Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).