



**GRANTS MANAGEMENT MEMORANDUM
VSB 2021-22-21**

Date: February 17, 2022
To: **Child Sexual Abuse Treatment (CS) Program Subrecipients**
From: Cal OES Grants Management, Victim Services Branch (VSB)
Subject: Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 – Changes to your CS Program

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill designed to speed up America's recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the passage of this bill, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) has received an historic investment for rape centers and sexual assault programs to support sexual assault survivors impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. For FVPSA, Section 2204 provides a total of \$198 million of supplemental funding to help rape crisis center and sexual assault programs continue adapting to meet the emergency needs of sexual assault survivors.

The purpose of the ARP Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault is to 1) 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 2) support the increased emergency needs of sexual assault survivors as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In response to the ARP, Cal OES will be augmenting the CS Program in the amount of \$412,476 with FVSA ARP funds. In addition:

- Cal OES will be extending the CS Program's Grant Subaward performance period end date from 12/31/2022 to 12/31/2023; an RFA will not be released for FY 2022-23.
- Ongoing funding that would have been allocated through the FY 2022-23 CS Program RFA will also be augmented through an amendment after the FY 2022-23 begins.

- FVSA ARP funds can be used for expenses related to COVID-19 from 1/1/2022 to the end of your new performance period of 12/31/2023.

CS PROGRAM GUIDELINES ARE HEREBY AMENDED TO INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING FVSA ARP CHANGES:

1. **Source of Funds:**

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault

- The purpose of these supplemental funds is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Within these parameters, Subrecipients have the flexibility to determine which services best support the needs of children who experienced sexual assault.
- There is no match required for these funds.
- Cal OES's four-digit code for this federal fund is FVSA.

2. **American Rescue Plan Program Components**

Allowable uses of these funds include:

- a. **PREVENTION** – Activities that assist sexual assault survivors by providing virtual services, supportive services, temporary housing assistance, mobile advocacy services, and supplies that will ensure survivors of sexual assault receive the care, support, and services they need while reducing the exposure to, and risk of, COVID-19. Prevention activities may include, but are not limited to the following:
- Provide virtual services, temporary housing options, and supportive services to survivors of sexual assault including paying for the operating, staffing, and administrative expenses of the facilities for rape crisis and sexual assault programs.
 - Provide temporary refuge in conjunction with supportive services, including the following, which can be accomplished by the development and implementation of written Operational Agreements (OAs) and/or Second-Tier Subawards with housing providers in the Subrecipient's service area:
 - Housing provisions including assistance locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services;
 - Rental subsidies and rental assistance;

- Temporary refuge or lodging in individual units such as apartments;
 - Safe homes; and
 - Hotel or motel vouchers.
 - Provide prevention services, including outreach to underserved populations to increase virtual access to sexual assault services and reduce the exposure and risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.
- b. **Preparation** – Activities and technical assistance that include assessing needs of sexual assault survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Activities that provide training, information, and assistance necessary to ensure the continuity of rape crisis centers and sexual assault services. Remote services continue to be allowable. Preparation activities may include, but are not limited to the following:
- Maintain the capacity to provide individual and group counseling, peer support groups, and referral to community-based services to assist survivors of sexual assault in recovering from the effects of the violence during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Maintain the capacity to provide services for sexual assault survivors, including age-appropriate counseling, supporting services, and culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate services during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- c. **Respond** – Activities and technical assistance for ensuring the continuity of sexual assault programs and rape crisis service centers, culturally specific programs, and tribal programs during the COVID-19 public health crisis which includes responding to issues such as adapting to fluctuating needs and changing circumstances. Remote services continue to be allowable. Response activities may include, but are not limited to the following:
- Fund staffing increases, workforce supports for employees/advocates, workforce capacity building, and any related costs to retain, reward, or recruit staff to ensure the continuity of sexual assault and rape crisis center services for sexual assault survivors may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Hiring bonuses and retention payments;

- Childcare;
- Transportation subsidies; and
- Other fringe or personal benefits
- Provide advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services concerning issues related to sexual assault services, including:
 - Assistance in accessing related federal and state financial assistance programs;
 - Legal advocacy to assist victims;
 - Medical advocacy, including provision of referrals for appropriate health care services (including mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse treatment), but which cannot include reimbursement for any health care services;
 - Assistance locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services;
 - Provision of transportation, childcare, respite care, job training, employment services, financial literacy services and education, financial planning, and related economic empowerment services; and
 - Parenting and other educational services for victims.
- Provide direct crisis intervention services, including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, peer support, and in-person assistance. Mobile advocacy allows for advocates to work out in the community in order to support sexual assault survivors wherever it is safe and convenient for the survivor.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO AUGMENT AND EXTEND YOUR CURRENT CS GRANT SUBAWARD:

1. Grant Subaward Amendment Form (Cal OES [Form 2-213](#)) - this form will include fund amounts, fund sources, and will be emailed to each Subrecipient from their assigned Program Specialist by February 22, 2022.
2. Grant Subaward Modification (Cal OES [Form 2-223](#)).

3. Revised budget pages to incorporate augmented funds and updated line items, including:
 - Current allocations and augmented funds (2021 FVSA, 2021 VCGF, 2021 CSAE, 2020 VOCA)
 - Line-item descriptions for 2021 FVSA funds that include which category the line-item is addressing (Prevent, Prepare, Respond) to support the needs of children who experienced sexual assault.

4. The following registrations must be current:
 - System for Award Management (SAM) Verification
 - IRS Verification
 - Nonprofit Status Verification – CA Dept of Justice