2019 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Increasing Critical Direct Services for Survivors of Domestic and Dating Violence Residing in Florida’s Rural and Underserved Communities

Deadline
All proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on June 3, 2019

Contact Information
For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact:

Wioleta Gaddy at Gaddy_Wioleta@fcadv.org

NOTE: It is very important that applicants review the enclosed information carefully. Applications that are submitted by non-eligible entities will be screened out during the review process.
Application Deadline

An application submission is complete if the application has been submitted via email by the deadline and contains each required element. The deadline for applying for funding under this announcement is June 3, 2019 11:59 p.m. ET.

An electronic copy must be emailed no later than the deadline to:

Gaddy_Wioleta@fcadv.org

Hard copies of the application are not required. However, it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure they receive an email verification that the application has been received by FCADV. Any applicant not receiving a verification within 24 hours of submitting the application should call Wioleta Gaddy at (850) 425-2749. Applicants should ensure plenty of time to verify FCADV’s receipt of their application. It is anticipated that all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by June 18, 2019.

Intent to Apply

Applicants are encouraged to submit an “Intent to Apply” email to Gaddy_Wioleta@fcadv.org by no later than May 20, 2019. The “Subject” line of the email should read: Intent to Apply for Rural and Underserved funding.

Also email Gaddy_Wioleta@fcadv.org with questions related to clarifying the Request for Proposals (RFP). Questions will be accepted through May 27, 2019 and will be responded to no later than May 31, 2019. The answers will be attached to this RFP and posted on FCADV’s website at www.fcadv.org. Questions submitted after May 27, 2019 will not be accepted.

Eligibility

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) will accept proposals from Florida’s certified domestic violence centers. This grant program focuses on increasing services for survivors of domestic violence in Florida’s rural communities through the implementation of community organizing strategies and the provision of critical direct services. Applicants must obtain a letter of support from at least one culturally-specific organization that will participate in grant activities. Applicants that have received prior funding must be in good standing with FCADV to be considered for this Request for Proposals. Centers’ compliance with Program and Administrative requirements and their status of current contract funded activities will be included in the review process. Centers that have failed to meet current contract deliverables, are non-compliant with current contract requirements, or did not comply with previous contract requirements may not be considered for funding.
All centers submitting an application for funding are advised that by accepting federal dollars under this RFP as a sub-recipient they will be required to comply with all federal and state laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing these funds. Prior to an award, all agencies must be found to be in good standing as indicated by the Federal Excluded Parties List System. https://www.epls.gov/

**Award Period**

The award period for the grant program will be 36 months. Commencement of awarded projects will be July 1, 2019 with an expiration of June 30, 2022. Applicants shall submit a 12-month budget for the planning phase of the project. If awarded, grantees will receive a one-year contract with the option to renew upon successful completion of the initial contract year (planning phase) and upon FCADV approval of the project Implementation Plan.

**Funds Available**

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the Florida Department of Children and Families, FCADV, Department of Justice, or Florida Statutes. Projects funded from this RFP shall not exceed $116,000.00 for each fiscal year. Applicants should carefully consider the resources needed to successfully implement the proposed project and present a realistic budget that accurately reflects project costs.

**Background**

FCADV was first awarded the Florida Violence Against Women Act Grant Program in 1995 to implement an initiative for the development of services in rural areas of the state understanding that survivors of domestic violence in rural areas are among the most isolated and vulnerable in the state of Florida. Each of the STOP components: Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors, are given priority in addressing strategies which are utilized to hold perpetrators accountable and provide critical services to survivors of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Florida’s STOP program focuses on developing a collaborative approach to increase access to services for survivors. Florida’s STOP implementation plan reflects a high priority regarding increasing direct services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Florida maintains a commitment to funding direct services in rural and underserved communities to ensure appropriate service provision to communities with limited resources.

Rural areas face significant economic, geographic, and service barriers that make it difficult to create, strengthen, maintain, or expand victim assistance services. Over the years, this funding has supported Florida’s efforts to strengthen services to survivors in some of the most rural parts of the state. Key components of past rural projects include reducing the geographic and social isolation often experienced by rural survivors, developing a coordinated community response to
address the needs of survivors, increasing batterer accountability measures within communities, and creating culturally and linguistically accessible programs to address the needs of traditionally underserved populations in rural communities.

FCADV conducted a statewide needs assessment to identify gaps in services for survivors of domestic violence in rural communities. The assessment identified a need for specialized services for existing underserved populations including, but not limited to: African-American/Black, Hispanic, Native American, Haitian, farmworker and immigrant populations. Survivors representative of the above populations need culturally and linguistically specific services and benefit from tailored outreach services that address traditional barriers to service provision.

Today, survivors residing in rural areas continue to face unique challenges to receiving appropriate service provision. The geographic isolation, economic structure, strong social and cultural pressures, and lack of available and culturally responsive services significantly compound the problems of those seeking support and services to address the violence in their lives. In addition, the same barriers create difficulties for victim service providers and other social service professionals in identifying and assisting survivors.

FCADV’s Increasing Critical Direct Services for Survivors of Domestic and Dating Violence Residing in Florida’s Rural and Underserved Communities grant program creates a unique opportunity for Florida communities to increase the resources, services, and advocacy available to survivors of domestic violence residing in rural communities. This grant program will assist awarded certified domestic violence centers with funding to ensure appropriate, safe, and linguistically and culturally responsive services for survivors and their children.

**Grant Program Purpose Areas**

Applicants must describe in detail how the proposed project addresses one or more of the following purpose areas:

1. To address the gaps in service delivery and lack of access to services for survivors of domestic violence through the enhancement of community coordination between local service and criminal justice providers. The proposed project may include, but not be limited to: implementing, expanding, and establishing cooperative efforts and projects among law enforcement officers, prosecutors, immigration attorneys, victim service providers, health care providers and other related parties to enhance community response to domestic violence.

2. To minimize barriers unique to the rural environment that makes accessing safety difficult for survivors of domestic violence. Barriers may include, but not be limited to, those related to economic empowerment, community infrastructure (services and resources), and rural isolation. Grant applicants should address the challenges posed by the lack of access to
victim services and should increase professional community training to enhance responders’ knowledge and ability to adequately respond to survivors’ needs.

3. To increase service accessibility and enhance linguistic and cultural capability to serve survivors of domestic violence residing in rural communities who are from traditionally underserved populations. Traditionally underserved populations may include, but not are not limited to: survivors who are later in life, immigrant and/or farmworking communities, survivors living with a disability, survivors who are LGBTQ+, survivors who identify in communities of color, survivors with limited English proficiency, and survivors who are Deaf or hard of hearing. The applicant must identify a minimum of one underserved population that will be incorporated in this project, in addition to a geographical rural community to be served. The applicant must explain the dynamics of geographic isolation in the rural community and other challenges to accessing existing services experienced by the survivors from the traditionally underserved population(s).

4. To enhance core domestic violence services; specifically hotline, shelter and/or outreach services. The applicant must include a description of the center’s plan to ensure comprehensive services in shelter, outreach and hotline services as related to the underserved and rural population’s identified barriers and service access.

Additional Considerations

Applicants who incorporate a minimum of one of the following project areas will receive priority consideration:

- High-risk of homicide
- Enhanced stalking/cyberstalking collaboration for dating/domestic violence cases
- Sexual violence in the context of intimate partner violence
- Enhanced collaboration with culturally-specific organizations (the applicant may include funding for the partnering organization)

Program Requirements

FCADV’s Increasing Critical Direct Services for Survivors of Domestic and Dating Violence Residing in Florida’s Rural and Underserved Communities grant program will specifically support core services for survivors in Florida’s most isolated communities. Funding must be used for, but is not limited to, the following:

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1 See FCADV’s website for more information regarding its homicide reduction program. [https://www.fcadv.org/projects-programs/invest-program](https://www.fcadv.org/projects-programs/invest-program)
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- Maintaining at least one full-time FTE staff person that is solely dedicated to rural project coordination and the provision of direct services to survivors of domestic violence and their children;
- Conducting an assessment of community needs and existing resources and developing a community-specific plan that builds on this assessment;
- Creating new outreach services or enhancing existing outreach services for survivors;
- Partnering with at least one culturally-specific organization that works with the priority population that will be served as a part of this grant program;
- Enhancing community response through community-wide coordination and training opportunities; and
- Increasing intervention, advocacy, and additional support services for survivors.

FCADV will play an integral role in shaping and monitoring the projects, which will include intensive training, technical assistance (TA) and overall program guidance by FCADV staff and other identified TA providers. This will include, but not be limited to, onsite training and TA, frequent communication via email, phone and webinar, and annual monitoring. Successful applicants should expect to engage in intensive, proactive technical assistance for the duration of the grant period.

**Activities that Compromise Survivor Safety**

The following activities have been found to jeopardize the safety of victims or survivors or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions:

- Procedures or policies that exclude victims or survivors from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, crisis intervention counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, disability, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or gender of their children.
- Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and privacy of persons receiving funded services.
- Mediation or counseling for couples as a systemic response to domestic violence or dating violence or any other manner of joint victim-offender communication.
- Failure to conduct safety planning with victims or survivors.
- Requiring victims or survivors to seek legal sanctions against their perpetrator or offender (e.g., seek a protection order, file formal complaint, forcing the victim to testify against their perpetrator or offender).
• Procedures that would penalize survivors of violence for failing to testify against their abusers or impose other sanctions on survivors.

• Imposing restrictive conditions on victims or survivors in order for them to receive services (e.g., requiring victims of stalking to seek a protection order or counseling as a precondition to services).

• Procedures that indicate criminal record background checks are performed on individuals seeking services prior to providing those individuals with services.

Applications that propose activities that compromise victim or survivor safety will be eliminated from further consideration entirely.

**Out-of-Scope Activities**

FCADV has determined the activities listed below to be out of the program scope. Applications that propose out-of-scope activities will receive a point deduction during the review process. Applications that are determined to be substantially outside the scope of the “Increasing Critical Direct Services for Survivors of Domestic and Dating Violence Residing in Florida’s Rural and Underserved Communities” grant program will not be considered for funding. The following activities are out-of-scope and will not be supported by grant funding:

• Research projects (This does not include program assessments conducted only for internal improvement purposes).

• Supervised visitation programs.

• Legal services in civil and criminal matters, such as family law cases (divorce, custody, visitation and child support), housing cases, consumer law cases and other legal services for victims or survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, except that legal assistance in seeking protection orders and limited immigration matters (e.g., U Visas) is permitted.

• Child abuse or family violence issues such as violence perpetrated by a child against a parent, or violence perpetrated by a sibling against another sibling.

• Services to children for anything other than services beyond ancillary services provided to a survivor’s child when there is an inextricable link between a parent’s victimization and the child’s need for services and in connection to providing survivor services for the parent. For example, funds may be used to provide services to children of battered participants residing in a shelter.

The following is a list of additional activities that are unallowable and cannot be supported in the “Increasing Critical Direct Services for Survivors of Domestic and Dating Violence Residing in Florida’s Rural and Underserved Communities” grant program. Applications that propose
unallowable activities may receive a point deduction during the review process. Applications that include substantial unallowable activities will not be considered for funding.

- Lobbying
- Fundraising
- Purchase of real property or vehicles
- Construction
- Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting)
- Prevention education efforts and media campaigns are not allowable activities for this grant program

**Accommodations and Language Access**

Applicants are encouraged to allocate grant funds to support activities that help to ensure individuals with disabilities, Deaf individuals and persons with limited English proficiency have meaningful and full access to their programs. For example, grant funds can be used to support American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter services, language interpretation and translation services, or the purchase of adaptive equipment. Applicants proposing to use grant funds to create websites, videos and other materials must ensure that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Review Process**

The grant application process will be competitive and all applications will be reviewed by an external panel. Applications will be scored by the review panel according to the criteria set forth in this solicitation.

If the application fails to meet the criteria listed below for the initial internal review, the application may not receive an external review.

Criteria for the initial internal review:

- Proposal was submitted via email by the deadline
- Proposal is complete
- Proposal meets page limit and page layout requirements
- Proposal reflects the grant’s purpose area(s)
- Proposal meets remaining requirements set forth in this RFP

Each committee member will review the information provided in the application against the selection criteria for the program. The total points possible for an application are 100 (10 points
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Project Abstract, 60 points for Proposal Narrative, 20 points for Budget and 10 points for Letters of Support). The review panel will be responsible for rendering funding decisions as related to the grant proposal. Applications with the highest composite scores will be considered for funding. Award recipients will be subject to monitoring and contract compliance by FCADV.

**Past Performance Review**

In addition to the review process described above, applicants with current or recent (closed within the calendar year) FCADV awards will be reviewed based on the elements listed below. Please note that if the applicant has not met or completed any one of the following, up to five points may be deducted from the application.

- Progress reports submitted by the applicant, in conjunction with monitoring conducted by FCADV, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the current project, indicating timely progress toward meeting project goals and objectives.
- Demonstration that past activities supported with FCADV grant funds have been limited to program purpose areas.
- Adherence to programmatic and financial reporting requirements, including timely submission of required reports.
- Completion of close-out of prior awards in a timely manner including, but not limited to, timely submission of final reports.
- Appropriate utilization and active participation in FCADV-sponsored workshops and other technical assistance events as required by the current award.
- Timely resolution of issues identified in any audit or on-site financial or programmatic monitoring visit.
- Timely expenditure of grant funds.

**Schedule of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for Proposal Available</td>
<td>May 7, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Submission</td>
<td>June 3, 2019; 11:59 p.m. ET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification of Awards</td>
<td>June 18, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Initiation</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Period</td>
<td>12 Months with option to renew 24 additional months after successful completion of the first year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCADV Technical Assistance for Grantees</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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What an Application Must Include

Applicants must complete each of the following sections as part of their response to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete. For each section listed below, please note the corresponding maximum point value that may be assigned during the peer review scoring process. The proposal should follow the order below for easy reading.

Applications must use the following page format requirements:

- Double-spaced (except for the Project Abstract, which should be single-spaced)
- One-inch margins
- Type no smaller than 12-point, Times New Roman font
- Include a Project Abstract (please limit to one page, single-spaced)
- No more than fifteen (15) pages for the Proposal Narrative

Project Abstract (10 points, limit to one page, single-spaced)

The Project Abstract, when read separately from the rest of the application, is meant to serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed project and should concisely describe proposed project goals and objectives.

Proposal Narrative (60 points)

The Proposal Narrative should be limited to fifteen (15) pages, double-spaced.

A. Purpose of the Application (15 points)

- Describe the rural service area in which the project would be implemented including information about underserved population(s), community demographic information, geographic make up, and any other factors or unique characteristics of the community that clearly identify the area as rural and the need for services;
- Describe the population(s) of survivors to be served;
- Describe the barriers survivors experience while attempting to access and utilize services within the local service area;
- Describe current services provided in the community;
- If no services currently exist in the local service delivery area, provide any history of attempts to provide services in the community;
- Describe gaps in current service delivery; and
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- Clearly state the need for the project and how funding will alleviate such need. The need must directly relate to the local service delivery area and the Purpose Area(s).

This section will be rated on the extent to which the applicant addresses the above criteria.

B. What Will Be Done (30 points)

- Describe the policies and procedures that your organization has or will adopt to: ensure linguistically, culturally, and community relevant services for traditionally underserved communities, which includes populations underserved because of geographic location, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and populations underserved because of particular needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, or age), and any other populations;

- Describe the administrative structure of the center and its ability to administer the project;

- Describe in detail the proposed project as it relates to the Purpose Areas;

- Describe the center’s plan for acquiring information about how to best serve survivors living in the rural service area. For example, if an applicant proposes to increase access to services for local farmworker survivors, the plan may include conducting focus groups with farmworker survivors in Spanish to gather information regarding their concerns accessing services or, to engage farmworker survivors to assist in the development of a fotonovela describing culturally and linguistically available outreach services. Plans must reflect a direct connection between community engagement and the new or enhanced outreach services;

- Propose goals, objectives, activities, measurable outcomes and indicators for the project that focus on Purpose Area requirements and the needs in the identified service area/community/population; and

- Describe any products to be revised, developed and/or distributed using grant funds, including why and how products will be tailored to meet the linguistic or cultural needs of and survivors of the proposed service area.

As a reference, use the following guide to create and differentiate between goals, objectives, activities, outcomes and indicators:

**Goals**: A broad statement of what you wish to accomplish.

**Objectives**: Objectives support the goal(s) and provide more details. Objectives answer the question: When?
Outcomes: Include how the project and its impact will be assessed. Examples of outcomes are: changes in behavior or condition that reflect a positive impact.

Indicators: The specific, measurable information collected to track whether an outcome has actually occurred.

To help you create goals and objectives, consider the S.M.A.R.T. method: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

EXAMPLE:
Nonprofit: Literacy for All
Proposed initiative provides literacy tutoring for youth.
Goal: To improve the academic performance of youth.
Objective: Literacy for All will develop and implement a 12-week literacy program for youth by December 2020.
Outcome: Students that received tutoring will improve their reading level.
Indicator: # of students are reading at grade level after the initiative compared to before.

This section will be rated on the extent to which the applicant addresses the above criteria, as well as the extent to which the project activities relate to the Purpose Areas, seem feasible and likely to succeed, and the extent to which project activities can realistically be completed within the grant period.

C. Activities Implementation Schedule (10 points)
A table or graph may be used for this section. If using a table or graph, the text within the table or graph may be single-spaced. The Implementation Schedule must still fall within the 15-page limit for the Proposal Narrative.

- Detail a 36-month activities implementation schedule. The schedule should indicate when project goals, objectives and activities will commence and how the project will progress.
- The schedule should indicate who is responsible for accomplishing each goal, objective and activity.
- The schedule should also indicate how each goal, objective and activity will be accomplished.

This section will be rated on the extent to which the applicant clearly articulates reasonable and attainable goals, objectives and activities within the time allotted for the grant period.
D. Sustainability (5 points)

- Describe the organization’s plan for the long-term sustainability of this project.
- Applicants are required to include a sustainability plan to continue the project if funding were no longer available.

This section will be rated on the extent to which the applicant addresses the above criteria.

**Budget** (20 points)

The applicant must provide a detailed 12-month line item Budget, including a Budget Narrative, which should clearly demonstrate the relationship between expenditures and program content. Expenditure categories must fall within the A-M line items included in the budget template. Budget form instructions are also included as a guide to help prepare the budget on the required budget template form. The budget MUST be submitted in Excel format on the required template. Awarded applicants will be required to submit revised budgets for the second and third years of the project once the first 12 months have been successfully completed.

**Matching Funds**

Matching funds are not required for this project.

**Letters of Support** (10 points)

Applicants are required to submit three letters of support from partner organizations in the proposed project’s service area. Applicants must obtain a letter of support from at least one culturally-specific organization that will participate in grant activities. The letter from the culturally-specific partnering organization must detail how the organization will participate in the proposed project.