

## Family Violence Prevention & Services Program

**2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP)  
Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program  
Supplemental Funding FAQs –  
FVPSA Culturally Specific Special Issue Resource Centers (CSSIRCs),  
National Indian Resource Center (NIRC), and  
Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence (ANTRCDV)**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARP\)](#), 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) program received a historic increase in supplemental funding for domestic violence shelters, supportive services, tribes, sexual assault programs, and culturally specific programs. All of them are working tirelessly to ensure the continuity of domestic violence and sexual violence services throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. In support of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors, ARP section 2204 provides a total of \$49.5 million for the FVPSA program that will remain available until expended through September 30, 2025, for the following:

- Grants to Support Culturally Specific Populations to provide culturally specific activities for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence to address emergent needs resulting from public health concerns and to promote strategic partnership development and collaboration in response to public health concerns for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, which will include the following:
  - Support culturally specific community-based organizations to provide culturally specific activities for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and to address emergent needs resulting from the COVID–19 public health emergency and other public health concerns; and
  - Support culturally specific community-based organizations that provide culturally specific activities to promote strategic partnership development and collaboration in responding to the impact of COVID–19 and other public health concerns for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The intent of the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program is to sustain organizational capacity in delivering trauma informed, culturally relevant services for adults, children, and youth affected by domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. This supplemental funding will support services developed by culturally specific and community based domestic violence and sexual assault programs implementing culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate programs, services, and supports for individuals and families who identify as a member of a racial or ethnic specific minority group and underserved population.

These funds will remain available until expended and through the end of FY 2025, September 30, 2025. FVPSA CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grant recipients can access the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations program guidance memo is available on the FVPSA Programs website, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grant-funding/2021-fvpsa->

[american-rescue-plan-culturally-specific-program-instruction-guidance](#) which includes details on the allowable uses of funds and reporting requirements.

## Budget and Budget Narrative

**Question: Are there required percentages for how these supplemental funds can be allocated to culturally specific domestic violence and sexual violence organizations?**

**Answer:** Yes, CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV are required to allocate the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations supplemental funding equally between culturally specific domestic violence and sexual violence organizations. Fifty percent (50%) of the funding is expected to be allocated to culturally specific domestic violence organizations and Fifty percent (50%) of the funding is expected to be allocated to culturally specific sexual violence organizations. Eligible subrecipients are community-based whose primary purpose is providing culturally specific services and supports for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

**Question: What are the dissemination expectations for this supplemental funding?**

**Answer:** All CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV are required to develop request for proposal announcement to disseminate the ARP supplemental funding to culturally specific community-based sexual assault and domestic violence organizations; urban Indian organizations, and LGBTQ + two - spirited organizations.

FVPSA-funded CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV are expected to promote the availability of the FVPSA ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program funding and disseminating a request for proposal announcement through the use of webinars, listservs, websites and other forms of technology that may be accessible to eligible culturally specific domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

**Question: Can subawards be provided to dual organizations?**

**Answer:** Yes, subawards may be provided to dual organizations. Dual culturally specific organizations must ensure an equitable distribution of funds in their budgets to domestic violence and sexual assault related activities. The budget submitted by a dual culturally specific organization must clearly identify the ARP funding streams.

**Question: Is there a match required for these supplemental funds?**

**Answer:** No match is required for these supplemental grant awards or subawards.

**Questions: Do we have to use all of the funds all the way up to 2025?**

**Answer:** No, ARP funds do not have to be used through 2025, grantees have the flexibility to use the funds over multiple years based on need. ARP supplemental funds were made available on October 25, 2021 and will remain available until expended and through the end of FY 2025, September 30, 2025.

**Question: Can we propose to end services for this grant earlier?**

**Answer:** Yes, activities proposed under ARP supplemental funding may end prior to September 30, 2025. ARP supplemental funding will remain available until expended and through the end of FY 2025, September 30, 2025, but funds may be fully spent down prior to that time.

**Question: Can we propose to make more than one disbursement of supplemental funds to subrecipients?**

**Answer:** Yes, CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV may determine to disburse the funding over multiple years. Given the urgent impact of COVID-19 on domestic violence and sexual assault services for racial and ethnic specific communities, FVPSA CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV will be expected to provide an initial disbursement to meet the timeframe established and it should not be later than February 28, 2022. Additional disbursements of funding are allowable to support CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grantees that may want to issue the supplemental funding broadly to reach domestic violence programs, sexual assault programs, culturally specific programs, LGBTQ two-spirited organizations, and urban Indian organizations serving sexual assault survivors. If CSSIRCs, NIRC, or ANTRCDV grantees choose to provide multiple disbursements over multiple years, then please describe the distribution plan in your supplemental application proposal.

Please reach out to your FPO if you will need additional time to disseminate the funding; reasonable extensions will be provided.

**Question: Can these funds be used to support planning and implementation coordination?**

**Answer:** Yes, CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grant recipients may use these supplemental funds to conduct pre-planning tasks such as engaging in organizational capacity building efforts to support the subawarding process, developing MOUs with culturally specific sexual assault technical assistance providers, LGBTQ+ specific technical assistance providers, and developing processes to both monitor subrecipients and establish reporting systems – *CSSIRCs, NIRC, ANTRCDV are allowed to use 5 percent of awarded funds to support activities necessary to administer, monitor, evaluate, and report.*

**Question: Can these funds be used to provide training and technical assistance to subrecipients?**

**Answer:** Yes, CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grant recipients may use these supplemental funds to provide technical assistance and training to support eligible culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence programs that will receive subawards and report on the FVPSA ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program funding.

**Question: Are there audit requirements?**

**Answer:** Yes, Any non-federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more during the non-federal entity's fiscal year in federal awards must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F- Audit Requirements. This audit report must be submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse within nine months after the close of the fiscal year during the term of the award.

## Partnerships

**Question: Are we expected to formally partner with organizations to implement this supplemental funding?**

**Answer:** Yes, to ensure that the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations supplemental funding is allocated equally among culturally specific domestic violence and sexual violence community-based organizations, CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grantees must partner with national culturally specific sexually assault or national sexual assault Indigenous organizations and submit documentation of their

expertise and/or the expertise of their partners. Applicants must submit or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

**Question: Do we need to submit information of our project partners with our supplemental applications?**

**Answer:** Yes, all CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grantees must submit documentation of their collaborative organizations who will assist with the implementation of the ARP supplement funding as part of their supplemental applications that:

1. Identify the key individuals and organizations, including project partners, involved in the proposed project.
2. Demonstrate that the individuals and organizations identified have the capacity to address the stated need and can successfully implement the proposed project activities; attach job descriptions of all key personnel.
3. Describe the mission of and types of services provided by the applicant.
4. Detail how the applicant primarily focuses on the identified culturally specific community (e.g., through its outreach efforts, tailored services, relationships with the community).
5. Describe how the applicant's advisory board or steering committee members and staff are reflective of the identified culturally specific community through their knowledge or experience relevant to the culturally specific community.
6. Provide detailed information that demonstrates the applicant or MOU partner organization has expertise and experience providing direct intervention services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
7. Detail the experience and expertise of the key personnel who will be directly involved with the project.

**Questions: What clarifications do we need to know about the MOU?**

**Answer:** For purposes of this solicitation, the MOU is a document containing the terms of the partnership and the roles and responsibilities between two or more parties, and it must be included as an attachment to the supplemental application. The MOU is not a substitute for a subaward agreement, which ensures that subrecipients adhere to the requirements of the award and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.332). Partners receiving funds under the award generally are considered subrecipients because they are carrying out a portion of the federal award. The MOU must be a single document and must be signed and dated by the Authorized Representative of each proposed partner organization during the development of the application.

The MOU must clearly: (1) Identify the partners and provide a brief history of the collaborative relationship among those partners, including when and under what circumstances the relationship began and when each partner entered into the relationship. (2) Describe the roles and responsibilities each partner will assume to ensure the success of the proposed project. (3) State that each project partner has reviewed the budget, is aware of the total amount being requested, and is being fully compensated for their work under the grant or is agreeing to be partially compensated or receive no compensation from the grant. (4) Identify which organization has the expertise in providing direct services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. (5) Describe the types of direct services the organization provides to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. (6) Detail the length of time the organization has provided the types of direct services for victims described in number five above. (7) Describe accomplishments in the community in providing services to victims of domestic violence, and sexual assault of both agencies. (8) Indicate approval of the entire budget by all partners. Describe the resources each partner would contribute to the implementation of the ARP supplemental funding, either through

time, in-kind contributions, or grant funds. (9) Demonstrate a commitment to work together to achieve stated supplemental grant program goals and objectives.

## Allowable Uses of Funds

### **Question: How is sexual assault defined?**

**Answer:** The term ‘sexual assault’ means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

### **Question: How are culturally specific services defined?**

**Answer:** Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(7), “culturally specific services” means community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities. Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(6), “culturally specific” means primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 300u-6(g)) (which means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian American; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics). The term “Hispanic” or “Latino” means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish speaking country. This underserved populations definition also includes other population categories determined by the Secretary [of Health and Human Services] or the Secretary’s designee to be underserved."

### **Question: How is underserved defined?**

**Answer:** For the purposes of this supplemental funding, “underserved population”, “underserved communities” or “people who have been historically underserved” should be read to be consistent with FVPSA statutory and regulatory definitions (at 42 U.S. Code § 10402(14) and 45 CFR part 1370.2). For reference, the definition at 45 CFR part 1370.2 is given here: “Underserved populations means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, 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. The reference to racial and ethnic populations is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300(u-6)(g)), which means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian American; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics. The term “Hispanic” or “Latino” means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish speaking country. This underserved populations definition also includes other population categories determined by the Secretary [of Health and Human Services] or the Secretary’s designee to be underserved."

### **Question: Are MENA communities eligible to receive ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations subaward?**

**Answer:** Yes, organizations serving Middle Eastern and North African communities to support domestic violence and sexual violence survivors are eligible to receive a subaward.

**Question: What culturally specific activities and services are allowable?**

**Answer:** Allowable culturally specific activities and services and linguistically appropriate services that may be supported with this supplemental funding includes but is not limited to: Supporting community-based culturally specific domestic violence and sexual violence programs and/or innovative racial and ethnic specific community-based collaborations providing shelter, counseling, mobile advocacy, hotline/helpline services, maternal health services, telehealth services, peer support, in-person assistance, community education, and related supportive services to adult and youth sexual assault and domestic violence survivors impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency and/or health disparities.

The provision of language access, bi-lingual services/advocacy, interpreter services, and multi-lingual training and public education/outreach campaigns are allowable uses of this supplemental funding.

The ARP supplemental funds may be used to perform outreach and provide education to culturally specific sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, LGBTQ two-spirited organizations, and urban Indian organizations about strategies that reduce COVID-19 transmission, using existing materials where available.

The ARP supplemental funds may be used to provide training, information, and assistance for ensuring the continuity of culturally specific sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, LGBTQ two-spirited organizations, and urban Indian organizations to help them maintain the capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Provide services, training, technical assistance, and outreach to increase access to culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence services;

Provide advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services concerning issues related to culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence services, including—

- (i) Assistance in accessing related federal and state financial assistance programs;
- (ii) Legal advocacy to assist survivors and their dependents;
- (iii) Medical advocacy, including provision of referrals for appropriate health care services (including mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse treatment), but which shall not include reimbursement for any health care services;
- (iv) Assistance locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services;
- (v) Provide transportation, childcare, respite care, job training and employment services, financial literacy services and education, financial planning, and related economic empowerment services; and
- (vi) Provide parenting and other educational services for victims and their dependents.
- (vii) 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.

Please review the FVPSA definition of supportive services cited on page 3 of the program instruction guidance memo and on page 6 of this FAQ.

**Question: Can supplemental funds be used to meet the basic needs of survivors?**

**Answer:** Yes, ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations supplemental funding can be used to meet the basic needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. ARP supplemental funds can be used to support the operation and administration of culturally specific domestic violence and sexual assault programs as well as to provide supportive services to ensure that survivors receive the care, support and services they need while reducing the exposure to and risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus which includes, but is not limited to:

- Staffing
- Utilities
- Food and toiletries
- Rental costs of the facility
- Safe homes
- Hotel or motel vouchers
- Emergency and immediate shelter
  - Temporary refuge or lodging in individual units such as apartments
    - Not required to be owned, operated or leased by the program
- Supplies for the rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs
  - Including supplies for survivors such as:
    - Clothing,
    - Toiletries,
    - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) etc.
- Transportation
- Developing safety plans
- Individual and group counseling and peer support groups
- Training, technical assistance, prevention, and outreach to increase awareness of sexual assault services and culturally specific services
- Culturally specific and linguistically appropriate services
- Language accesses services and supports
- Services for children and youth
- Advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services

While rental subsidies are included in the definition, per [42 U.S.C. § 10408\(d\)](#), FVPSA funds may not be used as a direct payment to any victim, thus the sexual assault program would have to pay the cost of rent directly to the landlord. Third-party vendor payments are an allowable expense for ARP supplemental funding. Grantees and subrecipients should have an established policy in place to make these funds available to all program participants; to ensure these funds meet a reasonable, basic need; and to ensure that grant funds are not exhausted or depleted under this singular use. Grantees must be aware of financial reporting and auditing requirements for provision of such service. Please review HHS regulations 45 CFR § part 75 “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards,” Subpart E—Cost Principles, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E?toc=1>.

**Supportive Services** – For the purposes of this supplemental funding, supportive services is defined as services for adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and **sexual assault and their dependents** that are designed to meet the needs of such victims and their dependents for short-term, transitional, or long-term safety and recovery.

Supportive services include, but are not limited to: direct and/or referral-based advocacy on behalf of victims and their dependents, counseling, case management, employment services, referrals, transportation services, legal advocacy or assistance, child care services, health, behavioral health and preventive health services, culturally and linguistically appropriate services, and other services that assist victims or their dependents in recovering from the effects of the violence (45 CFR § 1370.2).

**Question: Did national culturally specific sexual assault organizations receive a separate ARP supplemental grant award from FVPSA to provide training and technical assistance?**

**Answer:** No, the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations did not provide a separate appropriation for training and technical assistance; the FVPSA Program is not able to provide separate supplemental awards for national culturally specific sexual assault organizations or national sexual assault Indigenous organizations.

The FVPSA Program has allowed for CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV to use ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations funding to allocate subawards or contracts to national culturally specific sexual assault, LGBTQ+ technical assistance providers, national sexual violence technical assistance resource centers, and culturally specific technical assistance providers in order to provide training and technical assistance to culturally specific organizations, national sexual assault Indigenous organizations, urban Indian organizations, and LGBTQ two-spirited organizations subaward recipients.

**Question: What virtual services expenses are allowable?**

**Answer:** The ARP Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault are intended to support rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs to transition to virtual services or continue virtual services. This supplemental funding will support all costs associated with rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs systematically designing, implementing, and assessing ways to optimize the use of virtual services and teleservices for survivors of sexual assault that have been impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This supplemental funding may be used to support the existing virtual, remote, telehealth, and teletherapy services for survivors of sexual assault. These funds may be used to support computers, mobile devices, software, internet services, mobile services, technology services contracts. Grant recipients and subrecipients may use funds to support the safety of survivor data, including servers, firewall protection software, and training for personnel and survivors on topics such as proper use of devices and service portals, security of passwords, and available data safety features.

**Question: Public transportation has become limited/non-existent. Will we be able to purchase vehicles to support staff travel to areas of service where transportation doesn't exist?**

**Answer:** Yes, vehicles are an allowable expense under the FVPSA Program. Motor vehicles are defined as general purpose equipment, meaning they are equipment “which is not limited to research, medical, scientific or other technical activities” 45 CFR §75.2. The Cost Principles state that capital expenditures for vehicles and other general-purpose equipment are unallowable as a direct cost, “except with the prior written approval of the HHS awarding agency or pass-through entity” 45 CFR §75.439(b)(1). Therefore, there must be prior written approval before the purchase of a motor vehicle is allowed. In addition, if approved, “capital expenditures will be



charged in the period in which the expenditure is incurred, or as otherwise determined appropriate and negotiated with the HHS awarding agency” 45 CFR §75.439(b)(4).

Once purchased, the motor vehicle may only be used for specific grant related activities. Under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (Pub.L. 114-38), grant funds may be used for the “provision of advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services, concerning issues related to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence intervention and prevention, including ... provision of transportation” 42 USC §10408(b)(1)(G)(v).

In order for a grantee to purchase a vehicle, they will need to obtain written approval for the purchase. They will also have to ensure that the vehicle is used in support of the FVPSA activities, ensuring victims and survivors have access to the services they need.

**Question: Survivors requiring shelter and/or exiting shelter to other permanent living conditions cannot access moving services (i.e., U-Haul as it is not in immediate area of service). Could the program purchase a trailer that could be hitched to the back of a vehicle to facilitate with moving survivor's belongings?**

**Answer:** Yes, ARP supplemental funds may be used to cover the cost of addressing basic needs and providing rental assistance, hotel, motel, utilities, and nominal moving costs for sexual assault survivors and their children as they recover and stabilize during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Grantees should have an established policy in place to make these funds available to all program participants; to ensure these funds cover reasonable, common costs related to moving expenses; and to ensure that grant funds are not exhausted or depleted under this singular use. Please review HHS regulations 45 CFR § part 75 “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards,” Subpart E—Cost Principles, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E?toc=1>.

**Question: Is covering housing rental costs for survivors an allowable expense?**

**Answer:** Yes, ARP supplemental funds may be used to cover the cost of addressing basic needs and providing rental assistance, hotel, motel, utilities, and nominal moving costs for sexual assault survivors and their children as they recover and stabilize during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Grantees should have an established policy in place to make these funds available to all program participants who may be need; ensure these funds meet a reasonable, temporary/short-term need; and that grant funds are not exhausted or depleted under this singular use. Also, see above definition of supportive services.

**Question: Is paying for vehicle repairs for survivors to aid in mobility/access allowable?**

**Answer:** Yes, payment for vehicle repairs for survivors is allowable, these payments must be made directly to vendors. Third-party vendor payments are an allowable expense for ARP supplemental funding. Grantees and subrecipients should have an established policy in place to make these funds available to all program participants; to ensure these funds meet a reasonable, basic need; and to ensure that grant funds are not exhausted or depleted under this singular use. Grantees must be aware of financial reporting and auditing requirements for provision of such service. Please review HHS regulations 45 CFR § part 75 “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards,” Subpart E—Cost Principles, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E?toc=1>.

**Question: Can the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations supplemental funds to hire a consultant or employee to work on emergency preparedness with all of our funded programs?**

**Answer:** Yes, please review the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Program Instructions, *Prepare* section, pages 8-10.

For example, these ARP supplemental funds may be used to hire consultants or employees to assess the capacity of culturally specific programs organizations, culturally specific programs, and tribes to provide continuity of domestic violence and sexual assault services, including emergency operations plans and plans to address increasing service demands, remote services operational capacity, potential provider closures, and staff absenteeism.

**Question: Will funds support prevention services?**

**Answer:** Yes, please review ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Program Instructions, page 8, *Prevent*.

For example, these ARP supplemental funds may be used to provide prevention services, including outreach to underserved populations to increase virtual access to sexual assault services and reduce the exposure to and risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.

**Question: Will funds support outreach services?**

**Answer:** Yes, please review the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Program Instructions, page 8, *Prevent*.

For example, these ARP supplemental funds may be used to provide prevention services, including outreach to underserved populations to increase virtual access to sexual assault services and reduce the exposure to and risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.

**Question: What workforce capacity building, expansions, and supports are allowable?**

**Answer:** The ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations can be used for workforce-related expansions and supports, or to reimburse subrecipients or contractors for such costs and for costs that include but are not limited to:

- Planning for implementation of culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence services; COVID-19 mitigation strategies; implementation of mobile advocacy services; language access planning, or virtual/remote services implementation;
- Training providers and staff on COVID-19 mitigation activities: implementation of mobile advocacy services; or virtual/remote services implementation;
- Hiring providers and staff to carry out culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence services; COVID-19 mitigation strategies; implementation of mobile advocacy services; or virtual/remote services implementation;
- Reporting data to HHS on culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence services, COVID-19 mitigation strategies; implementation of mobile advocacy services; or virtual/remote services implementation; and
- Expenses to secure and maintain adequate personnel to carry out culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence services; COVID-19 mitigation strategies; implementation of mobile advocacy services; or virtual/remote services implementation; if the activity generating the

expense and/or the expenses were necessary to secure and maintain adequate personnel. Please review HHS regulations 45 CFR § part 75 “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards,” Subpart E—Cost Principles, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E?toc=1>. These requirements apply to the FVPSA recipient and any subrecipients. The FVPSA recipient should thoroughly review these regulations before developing your proposed budget. Such expenses may include:

- Hiring bonuses and retention payments,
- Childcare,
- Transportation subsidies, and
- Other fringe or personal benefits authorized by HHS regulations ([45 CFR part 75](#)).

The purpose of these allowable workforce capacity building expenses are to ensure the continuity of culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence services in local communities by allowing supplement funding to be used to sustain an advocacy workforce to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the needs of sexual assault survivors impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. A sustainable workforce is needed to operate remote/virtual services for survivors; to implement mobile advocacy services for survivors sheltered throughout local communities; and to coordinate the COVID-19 mitigate strategies for each local program to keep families healthy and safe during this difficult time.

## Subawards

### **Question: What are CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV required to do when issuing subawards?**

**Answer:** To issue subawards all CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grantees are expected to develop a request for proposals for culturally specific domestic violence and sexual assault organizations. CSSIRCs, NIRC, ANTRCDV grantees are expected to promote the availability of the FVPSA ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program funding and disseminating a request for proposal announcement through the use of webinars, listservs, websites and other forms of technology that may be accessible to eligible culturally specific domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

**Subaward** -- An award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract. (Source: 45 CFR 75.2)

**Pass-through entity** – A non-federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal program. (Source: 45 CFR 75.2)

All CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grantees must review the UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR HHS AWARD 45 CFR § 75.352 Requirements for pass-through entities.

**Subrecipient** -- A Non-Federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of

such program. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency (Source: 45 CFR 75.2)

**Question: What are the requirements of pass-through entities?**

**Answer:** In accordance with 45 CFR § 75.352 Requirements for pass-through entities.

All pass-through entities must:

(a) Ensure that every subaward is clearly identified to the subrecipient as a subaward and includes the following information at the time of the subaward and if any of these data elements change, include the changes in subsequent subaward modification. When some of this information is not available, the pass-through entity must provide the best information available to describe the Federal award and subaward. Required information includes:

(1) Federal Award Identification.

(i) Subrecipient name (which must match the name associated with its unique entity identifier;

(ii) Subrecipient's unique entity identifier;

(iii) Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN);

(iv) Federal Award Date (see [§ 75.2](#) *Federal award date*) of award to the recipient by the HHS awarding agency;

(v) Subaward Period of Performance Start and End Date;

(vi) Amount of Federal Funds Obligated by this action by the pass-through entity to the subrecipient;

(vii) Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated to the subrecipient by the pass-through entity including the current obligation;

(viii) Total Amount of the Federal Award committed to the subrecipient by the pass-through entity;

(ix) Federal award project description, as required to be responsive to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA);

(x) Name of HHS awarding agency, pass-through entity, and contract information for awarding official of the pass-through entity;

(xi) CFDA Number and Name; the pass-through entity must identify the dollar amount made available under each Federal award and the CFDA number at time of disbursement;

(xii) Identification of whether the award is R&D; and

(xiii) Indirect cost rate for the Federal award (including if the de minimis rate is charged per [§ 75.414](#)).

(2) All requirements imposed by the pass-through entity on the subrecipient so that the Federal award is used in accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of the Federal award;

(3) Any additional requirements that the pass-through entity imposes on the subrecipient in order for the pass-through entity to meet its own responsibility to the HHS awarding agency including identification of any required financial and performance reports;

(4) An approved federally recognized indirect cost rate negotiated between the subrecipient and the Federal Government or, if no such rate exists, either a rate negotiated between the pass-through entity and the subrecipient (in compliance with this part), or a de minimis indirect cost rate as defined in [§ 75.414\(f\)](#);

(5) A requirement that the subrecipient permit the pass-through entity and auditors to have access to the subrecipient's records and financial statements as necessary for the pass-through entity to meet the requirements of this part; and

(6) Appropriate terms and conditions concerning closeout of the subaward.

(b) Evaluate each subrecipient's risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward for purposes of determining the appropriate

subrecipient monitoring described in [paragraphs \(d\) and \(e\)](#) of this section, which may include consideration of such factors as:

- (1) The subrecipient's prior experience with the same or similar subawards;
  - (2) The results of previous audits including whether or not the subrecipient receives a Single Audit in accordance with subpart F, and the extent to which the same or similar subaward has been audited as a major program;
  - (3) Whether the subrecipient has new personnel or new or substantially changed systems; and
  - (4) The extent and results of HHS awarding agency monitoring (*e.g.*, if the subrecipient also receives Federal awards directly from a HHS awarding agency).
- (c) Consider imposing specific subaward conditions upon a subrecipient if appropriate as described in [§ 75.207](#).
- (d) Monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved. Pass-through entity monitoring of the subrecipient must include:
- (1) Reviewing financial and performance reports required by the pass-through entity.
  - (2) Following-up and ensuring that the subrecipient takes timely and appropriate action on all deficiencies pertaining to the Federal award provided to the subrecipient from the pass-through entity detected through audits, on-site reviews, and other means.
  - (3) Issuing a management decision for audit findings pertaining to the Federal award provided to the subrecipient from the pass-through entity as required by [§ 75.521](#).
- (e) Depending upon the pass-through entity's assessment of risk posed by the subrecipient (as described in [paragraph \(b\)](#) of this section), the following monitoring tools may be useful for the pass-through entity to ensure proper accountability and compliance with program requirements and achievement of performance goals:
- (1) Providing subrecipients with training and technical assistance on program-related matters; and
  - (2) Performing on-site reviews of the subrecipient's program operations;
  - (3) Arranging for agreed-upon-procedures engagements as described in [§ 75.425](#).
- (f) Verify that every subrecipient is audited as required by [subpart F of this part](#) when it is expected that the subrecipient's Federal awards expended during the respective fiscal year equaled or exceeded the threshold set forth in [§ 75.501](#).
- (g) Consider whether the results of the subrecipient's audits, on-site reviews, or other monitoring indicate conditions that necessitate adjustments to the pass-through entity's own records.
- (h) Consider taking enforcement action against noncompliant subrecipients as described in [§ 75.371](#) and in program regulations.

**Question: For a myriad of reasons, our organization cannot meet the requirement to compete and distribute funds within 90 days of receipt of funding. What can we do if we are not able to meet the deadline?**

**Related question:** How can we do a competitive process with 90 days to distribute funds requirement?

**Answer:** All grantees have the flexibility to use the funds over multiple years based on need. States may determine to disburse the funding over multiple years. By February 7, 2022, at 6:00PM ET, the ARP supplemental funding brief statement, ARP Supplemental Funding Budget and Budget Narrative must be uploaded at <http://www.GrantSolutions.gov>. This statement

verifies that the CSSIRCs, NIRC, or ANTRCDV is in a position to: 1) use these funds to provide culturally specific services for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors affected by COVID-19 in accordance with FVPSA; and 2) accept a supplemental award.

In your brief statement, please explain why funds cannot be distributed within the timeframe required; describe your plan to distribute ARP supplemental funds to subrecipients as immediately and expeditiously as possible, including the date by which this will occur, and the process to be used.

Given the urgent impact of COVID-19 on services for sexual assault survivors, FVPSA CSSIRCs, NIRC, and ANTRCDV grant recipients will be expected to provide an initial disbursement to meet the timeframe established and it should not be later than February 28, 2022. Additional disbursements of funding are allowable to support grantees that may want to issue the supplemental funding broadly to reach culturally specific programs, urban Indian organizations, and LGBTQ + two-spirited organizations. If CSSIRCs, NIRC, or ANTRCDV choose to provide multiple disbursements over multiple years, then please describe the distribution plan in your supplemental application proposal.

## Reporting Requirements

**Question: Given the instructions for reporting and required use of the same PPR form, how will subrecipients collect and report non-duplicated demographic and services data and track program expenses for each of the FVPSA funding streams (i.e., core FVPSA grant, and ARP supplemental)? Our programs must report all of the people they serve for state and federal reporting purposes. How can they do this without us asking for double data?**

**Answer:** The FVPSA Program will be consulting with OMB about the ability to streamline ARP supplement performance progress reporting so that states, territories, and tribes may be able to submit only one ARP performance progress report and participate in quarterly online surveys regarding reach and impact of all the ARP supplemental funding. The FVPSA Program will follow-up with all FVPSA ARP grant recipients once final decisions have been approved or not approved.

Please note that the FVPSA Program only has one set of OMB approved reporting forms for annual reporting from the states, tribes, and coalitions. FVPSA grant recipients will not be required to make substantive changes to their reporting process or procedures for one-time supplemental funding. See the ARP Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault program instruction guidance memo: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grant-funding/2021-fvpsa-american-rescue-plan-198-million-grants-support-survivors-sexual-0>

**Question: When are Performance Progress Reports due?**

**Answer:** All ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Program grant recipients are required to submit semi-annual performance progress reports. Information on reporting requirements is available on the ACF website at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/post-award-requirements>. By April 30, 2022, October 30, 2022, April 30, 2023, October 30, 2023, April 30, 2024, October 30, 2024, April 30, 2025, October 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. ET, all FVPSA ARP culturally specific sexual assault and domestic violence [semi-annual performance progress reports](#) must be submitted electronically through GrantSolutions at <http://www.GrantSolutions.gov>.

Recipients are required to submit a semi-annual PPRs describing the activities carried out and an evaluation of the effectiveness of those activities in achieving the purposes of the grant (42 U.S.C. 10406(d)). A section of this performance report must be completed by each recipient or sub-recipient that provided program services and activities during the project period. Recipients must compile sub-recipient performance reports into a comprehensive report for submission.

**Question: When are Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) reports due?**

**Answer:** All ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program funding recipients are required to use the SF-425 Federal Financial Report for expenditure reporting semi-annually. The deadlines for these reports are as follows: April 30, 2022, October 30, 2022, April 30, 2023, October 30, 2023, April 30, 2024, October 30, 2024, April 30, 2025, October 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. ET. To access the SF-425, please visit [Post-Award Reporting Forms](#) at Grants.gov. SF-425 reports are due as frequently as is required in the terms and conditions of award using due dates from reports to the HHS Payment Management System (PMS). Recipients will continue to submit the [FFR Federal Cash Transaction Report \(FCTR\)](#) electronically to the HHS Division of Payment Management through the Payment Management System (PMS), <https://pms.psc.gov/grant-recipients/hhs-acf.html>. Paper copies will not be accepted.

## Additional Questions

**Question: Is the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Program Instruction Guidance Memo available online?**

**Answer:** Yes, the ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations program guidance memo is available on the FVPSA Programs website, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/grant-funding/2021-fvpsa-american-rescue-plan-culturally-specific-program-instruction-guidance>

## Who should we contact for help?

### FVPSA Project Officer (FPO)

- Explains program objectives, program requirements, performance progress report requirements, and Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requirements
- Monitors the performance of individual grant projects
- Reviews performance progress reports

### ACF Grants Management Specialist (GMS)

- Explains regulations, policies, and financial aspects of your award
- Makes sure you comply with award requirements and cost policies
- Oversees receipt of required financial reports
- Follows up on overdue reports, as necessary

**ACF Office of Grants Management:** If there are any questions about the ARP COVID-19 testing, vaccine, and mobile health units supplemental funding Notice of Award letters or the financial implementation of these supplemental grants, then please reach out to the ACF Office of Grants Management at [FPRG-OGM@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:FPRG-OGM@acf.hhs.gov).

<b>Culturally Specific Resource Center</b>	<b>FVPSA Program Specialist</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence	Betty Johnson	<a href="mailto:Betty.Johnson@acf.hhs.gov">Betty.Johnson@acf.hhs.gov</a> (202) 205-4866
Esperanza United/Casa de Esperanza	Katherine Cloutier	<a href="mailto:Katherine.Cloutier@acf.hhs.gov">Katherine.Cloutier@acf.hhs.gov</a> (202) 260-5738
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (Ujima)	Tya Johnson	<a href="mailto:Tya.Johnson@acf.hhs.gov">Tya.Johnson@acf.hhs.gov</a> (202) 690-7862
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center	Shena Williams	<a href="mailto:Shena.Williams@acf.hhs.gov">Shena.Williams@acf.hhs.gov</a> (202) 205-5932
Alaska Native Women's Resource Center	Shena Williams	<a href="mailto:Shena.Williams@acf.hhs.gov">Shena.Williams@acf.hhs.gov</a> (202) 205-5932

**The ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program Supplemental Awards Table**

<b>2021 ARP Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally Specific Populations Grant Program Awards Table</b>	
<b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Culturally Specific Special Issue Resource Centers</b>	
Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Gender Based Violence	\$13,200,000
Ujima: National Center on Violence Against Black Women	\$13,200,000
Esperanza United/Casa de Esperanza	\$13,200,000
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center	\$4,950,000
Alaska Native Women's Resource Center	\$4,950,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,500,000</b>