

# Family Violence Prevention & Services Program

## **FY 2020 Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**

### **Allowable Use of Funds**

### **for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Grant Program**

### **National Domestic Violence Hotline**

The [Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act \(CARES Act\), P.L. 116-136](#) provides flexibility in how your agency uses the supplemental funding to ensure the continuity of hotline services for domestic violence survivors during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. Specifically, the National Domestic Violence Hotline received \$2,000,000, of which \$500,000 is expected to be allocated to the StrongHearts Native Helpline to provide remote services to American Indians and Alaska Natives in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

Funding may support a wide range of in-scope activities, including remote hotline services, mobile advocacy, telehealth, peer support, supplies, technology, and equipment and software to assist in carrying out remote services. Funding may also support a wide range of expenses necessary to ensure the continuity of hotline/helpline services for domestic violence survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This document details a list of allowable activities that may support your efforts to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 for victims of family violence, domestic violence and dating violence. All activities listed must align with your Family Violence Prevention and Services Act CARES Act program narrative. This list is not exhaustive, as there may be other allowable uses of funds consistent with the terms and conditions of the award.

Please note that in terms of continuity of services, in accordance with the Administration for Children and Families [Information Memorandum IM-ACF-OA-2020-01](#), to the extent permitted by law, grantees/recipients are allowed to continue to charge salaries and benefits to their currently active awards consistent with the grantees'/recipients' policy of paying salaries (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal. Grantees/recipients will be permitted to amend/create emergency policies in order to put emergency contingencies in place. ACF will allow other allowable costs (e.g., program-related, allocable, reasonable) that are necessary to resume activities supported by the award to be charged to their awards, consistent with applicable Federal cost principles and the benefit to the project. ACF will evaluate the grantee's/recipients' ability to resume the project. Additional information can be found by visiting, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-funding/acf-grant-recipient-covid-19>.

## Supplemental Funding Allowable Activities

**Prevent** – Planning for emergency operations, services and activities related to trauma-informed education, safety planning, and crisis interventions that will be provided remotely which will ensure the continuity of domestic violence services and reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19:

- Provision of crisis intervention services for domestic violence survivors during COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Provision of safety planning for domestic violence survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Provision of counseling services for domestic violence survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Provision of mobile advocacy for domestic violence survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Mobile advocacy allows for advocates to work out in the community in order to support domestic violence survivors wherever it is safe and convenient for the survivor and local domestic violence program; and
- Prevention services, including outreach to underserved populations to increase access to domestic violence services and reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19.

**Prepare** – Activities that include assessing needs of survivors calling the hotline/helpline during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Activities that provide training, information, and assistance necessary to ensure the continuity of domestic violence services. Activities and services that will empower survivors to make decisions with dignity and respect and reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19:

- Assessing, revising, and implementing emergency response protocols based on the needs of domestic violence survivors, guidance provided by local authorities, and the incorporation of best practices;
- Providing training, technical assistance and planning to ensure the coordination of hotline relocation during natural disasters and public health emergencies; and
- Strengthen partnerships with local and state public health authorities, emergency services managers, health care providers, culturally specific community based organizations, Tribes and domestic violence programs to improve emergency operations for the hotline/helpline.

**Respond** – Activities and plans of action to ensure the continuity of hotline/helpline services and response to survivor needs remotely, including how the response may change and how you plan to adapt to any fluctuating needs and circumstances of the COVID-19 public health emergency:

- Coordination and provision of hotline/helpline services;

- Assistance in developing safety plans, and supporting efforts of victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence to make decisions related to their ongoing safety and well-being; and
- Provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services, and referrals to increase access to domestic violence services and reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19.

## Resources

Please see the following links for additional resources and information:

- Family and Youth Services Bureau, Federal Guidance in Addressing COVID-19 webpage, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/news/federal-guidance-in-addressing-covid-19>.
- FAQs on Allowable Use of FVPSA Funds during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/news/faqs-on-allowable-use-of-fvpsa-funds-during-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency>.
- Administration for Children and Families Information Memorandum IM-ACF-OA-2020-01, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-funding/acf-grant-recipient-covid-19>.

## Questions and Point of Contact

The FVPSA Program understands that when responding to survivors your original plan for use of the COVID-19 supplemental funds may change due to unforeseen and changing circumstances. The FVPSA Program understands that when responding to survivors your original plan for use of the COVID-19 supplemental funds may change due to unforeseen and changing circumstances. Budget changes can be made as long as they are in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards available at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=pt45.1.75> and are consistent with the terms and conditions of your award.

If you require scope changes please review the information on the [ACF COVID-19 Response and Resources](#) and submit any needed scope adjustment or change in scope requests to your FVPSA Federal Project Officer, Rickeya Franklin at [Rickeya.Franklin@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Rickeya.Franklin@acf.hhs.gov).