

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

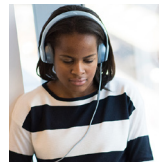
May 2022

Vol. 1



DRAW DOWN RESOURCES

Do you need access to your ARP funds? Are you locked out of your Payment Management System account? [Check out our resource list to get you started.](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

The [National Health Resource Center](#) offers free webinars, such as survivor-centered support during the COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing access to support services and much more.

What's in this Edition?

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Program is excited to share with you its quarterly newsletter, Community Connections. This inaugural edition includes:

- Due Dates and Timelines 2
- Training Tidbits 3
- VPSA Provides Historic Increases
Tribal Communities 4
- Resources and More 5

Training Opportunities

We're partnering with the Office of Grants Management for a three part Financial Grants Management training series. All FVPSA-funded grant recipients, including states, territories, tribes, coalitions, resource centers, hotlines, and SSAPC demonstration grantees, are invited. We've designed these live webinars to support FVPSA grantees in effectively managing their federal grant awards. Whether you're a newcomer or experienced with managing FVPSA funds.

Module 1: Understanding the Code of Federal Regulations and Cost Principles. [Watch Module 1](#)

Module 2: Roles and Responsibilities of Pass-Through Entities and Sub-recipients - Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 2:00 PM EST. [Register for Module 2](#)

Module 3: Internal Controls
Wednesday, June 29, 2022, 2:00 PM
EST. [Register for Module 3](#)

Crisis Response: Catalyst for Innovation

Written by: Trevor Pedro, Senior Communications Specialist, FVPSA

During the COVID-19 pandemic, innovation has been critical to keeping many people's lives and workplaces functioning safely. For example, at the height of the pandemic, Chris Newman, the FVPSA state administrator for Massachusetts, and a team of professionals took their innovative ideas and developed a plan to help domestic violence survivors and their advocates through FVPSA American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding.

"We'd already been doing some COVID mitigation strategies in Massachusetts," Newman said. "Still, we felt some missing components, specifically in 23 FVPSA core-funded, and ARP-funded sexual assault and domestic violence programs within congregate care and shelter settings, so part of the rollout included surveillance testing."

Last year, FVPSA allocated \$12.4M in ARP funds to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Department of Public Health, and various other state organizations to support the continuity of care for survivors, which included starting surveillance testing in August 2020. The service was made available to congregate care staff and survivors who voluntarily consented to a polymerase chain reaction or PCR testing and rapid testing when available. The goal was to effectively monitor community or population-level disease outbreaks or characterize the incidence and prevalence of the disease. "We wanted to get a pulse or a baseline on what the COVID numbers were in the congregate care and shelter settings, especially in what we knew from science that those types of settings were at high risk for spread."

Despite the multiple COVID-19 variants, such as delta and omicron, being introduced into the population, the surveillance testing plan resulted in 1.1 million tests, which allowed the state to register a low 2.13% positivity rate since September 2020. Newman attributes the historic ARP funding and a desire to make a difference in survivors' lives to the effort's success. "To be able to use these ARP funds and maintain sheltering survivors in their congregate care settings versus having to either hotel or motel them and or in some cases get them into extended-stay apartments was important. We ended up providing peace of mind and stability for more than 18,000 survivors in their time of need."

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Draw Down 101

You are ready to draw down your ARP funds. Grantees must view their funding status, including current grant amount, draw down amount, and remaining funding for the four funding streams. The Office of Grants Management (OGM) will send individual draw down status emails shortly, including all of this essential information.

Second, key dates and timelines are in the table to the right. Grantees must adhere to these deadlines by submitting their Federal Financial Reports and Program Performance Reports on time. These documents are imperative for the program to function efficiently and effectively. Please contact your assigned FVPSA Federal Project Officer if you need assistance with these reports.

If you need help accessing your supplemental grant funding, use the Payment Management System resources identified in the table. In addition, the user guide, grant recipient training, help desk information, and more are available by clicking on the assigned links. Feel free to visit our [FVPSA ARP Grants Drawdown page](#) for additional information.



DUE DATES AND TIMELINES

Federal Financial Reports (FFR) and annual Program Performance Reports (PPR) are due each December through 2025.

FFRs AND PPRs Due Dates

Grant Awards	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Supplemental Funding	12/30	12/30	12/30	12/30
Support for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for Culturally Specific Populations	12/30	12/30	12/30	12/30
Support for COVID-19 Mitigation, Vaccines and Mobile Health Units	12/30	12/30	12/30	12/30
ARP Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault	12/30	12/30	12/30	12/30

* Final reports due in December.

Payment Management System Resources

PMS /PSC offers resources and technical assistance to help you access your supplemental grant funding..

PMS/PSC Resources and Technical Assistance

Resources	Description	Link
PMS Grant Recipient Training	Interactive sessions scheduled in March.	https://pms.psc.gov/training-grant-recipient-training.html 🌐
PMS User Guide	How-to guide for filing FFRs	https://pms.psc.gov/training/and-withdrawing-funds.pms-user-guide.html 🌐
PMSLiason Accountant Page	Automated form to locate dedicated representatives	https://pms.psc.gov/find-pms-liason-accountant.html 🌐
PMS Help Desk	Contact information for Help Desk personnel	Email: PMSSupport@psc.hhs.gov Phone: (877) 614-5533 🌐
PMS Best Practices	Insider tips for easing the PMS process	https://pms.psc.gov/trainingbest-practices.html 🌐

UPCOMING REGIONAL MEETINGS

FVPSA is holding Regional Meetings in June. We've organized these sessions by region (see map) and opened them to states, coalitions, and tribes. The regional meetings will include sharing knowledge through formal briefings and technical assistance opportunities. Please click on the map below to view the regional breakdown.

East Regional Meeting (Regions 1, 2, 3) - June 6-7

06/06/22, 1:00 pm — 4:00 pm ET

06/07/22, 9:00 am — 12:00 pm ET

Midwest/South Regional Meeting (Regions 4, 5, 6, 7) - June 14-15

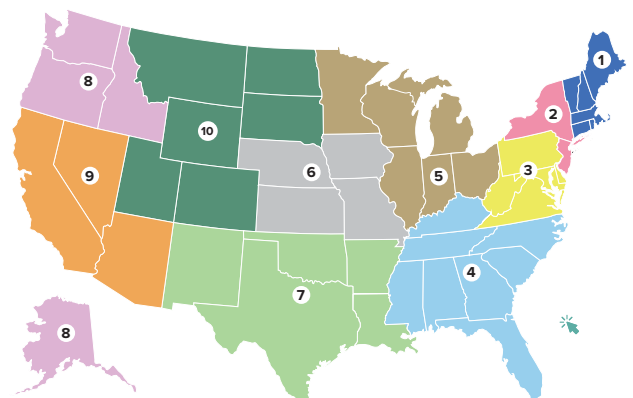
06/14/22, 12:00 pm — 4:00 pm ET

06/15/22, 12:00 pm — 4:00 pm ET

West Regional Meeting (Regions 8, 9, 10) - June 7-9

06/07/22, 2:00 pm — 5:00 pm ET 06/08/22, 4:00 pm — 7:30 pm ET

06/09/22, 4:00 pm — 7:30 pm ET

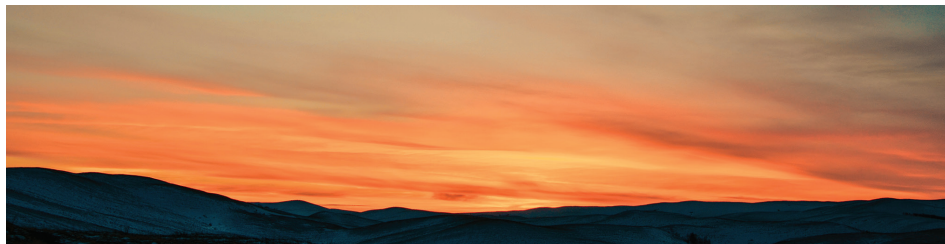


“The flexibility FVPSA has built into the ARP funds has been incredibly instrumental in allowing us to support the expanded needs of the communities.”

- CHRIS NEWMAN

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The next evolution includes using FVPSA ARP COVID-19 funds and continuing to push innovation to bring mobile health units and vaccine support for survivors in the state of Massachusetts. For additional information regarding FVPSA ARP grants, visit our [program instructions page](#).



FEATURED RESOURCE

There are new and innovative resources available through the FVPSA National Center on Domestic Violence Trauma and Mental Health (NDVTMH). They took a holistic approach and developed a [Family-Centered Toolkit](#), which helps programs envision and implement an integrated system that supports parent-child relationships and families with culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and developmentally sensitive services.

NDVTMH also has a free webinar, the [Core Curriculum on Creating Accessible, Culturally Responsive, and Trauma-Informed \(ACRTI\) Services](#). This content is a crucial part of the organization's work. They've revised the content with updates based on the experiences of survivors, advocates, trainers, and leaders in the field. This monthly webinar series will explore these enhanced capacity-building resources and provide insight from staff who have utilized these tools in the field.

FVPSA Launches New ARP Website

FVPSA has launched a one-stop-shop website for grantees and advocates looking for American Rescue Plan grants information resources called the FVPSA ARP Grants Portal.

This user-friendly website includes FAQs, Federal Project Officer contact info, funding tables, and much more. Click below to dive into this new resource.

[FVPSA ARP Grants Portal](#)

Time to Tune In

Does a busy schedule have you behind the headlines? Looking for the latest news in a bite-sized format? Check out our FVPSA Newsbreak.

This condensed audio program includes news, resources, and updates from the FVPSA Director, team members, and grantees.

Visit the FVPSA ARP Grants Portal and click on our FVPSA Newsbreak to tune in today!

[FVPSA Newsbreak](#)

Success-Ful Pod

According to a recent Statista survey, 57% of U.S. consumers listened to an audio podcast last year. So if you are looking for a new listen that focuses on engaging content and success stories from our advocates and grantees, tune into FVPSA Success Stories.

Our first episode dives into an innovative ARP-funded initiative that helped mitigate the risks of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

[FVPSA Success Stories](#)



FVPSA Provides Historic Increases for Tribal Communities

In March of last year, Congress presented the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) program with a fantastic opportunity to change lives in tribal communities. FVPSA ARP grants supports domestic violence programs, tribes, resource centers and hotlines, sexual assault survivors, and culturally specific domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Additionally, the program administered funds to help communities mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic through increased access to mobile health units, testing for survivors fleeing violence, and developing health and wellbeing support services for survivors. The table below outlines the four funding streams supporting tribal communities, as well as the investment FVPSA made last year.

Funding Streams	Administration Funds
Grants for COVID-19 Testing, Vaccines and Mobile Health Units 🌿	\$142.5M
Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault 🌿	\$39.6M
Grants to Support Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from Culturally-Specific Populations 🌿	\$9M
Supplemental Funding 🌿	\$34.75M
Total	\$256.85M

QUOTABLE

“American Indian/Alaska Native tribes and the leadership of sovereign nations and sovereign people have been a critical part of the FVPSA Program for the last 37 years. FVPSA funding reaches 252 tribes and tribal organizations annually. In addition, FVPSA-funded state and tribal shelters provided 9,123,443 million shelter nights for victims and their families.”

SHAWNDEL DAWSON
Director, FVPSA

Did you know?

We have a new [Tribal Resources page!](#) This innovative and user-friendly resources has the latest ARP grants program guidance, draw down info, technical assistance opportunities, and highlights new ARP-funded initiatives in tribal communities.

FYSB Family & Youth
Services Bureau

Family Violence Prevention
& Services Program



RESOURCES AND MORE

Tribal Initiative Spotlight

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center launched the Tribal Safe Housing Center to address the intersection of housing instability/homelessness and domestic violence. These essential advocates are using ARP funds to work towards a vision of "Safe Housing for All Our Relatives." [Visit the NIWRC website](#) to learn more about this innovative resource.

Tribal Resource Centers



StrongHearts Native Helpline

1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483) is a 24/7 safe, confidential and anonymous domestic, dating, and sexual violence helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, with culturally-appropriate support and advocacy through call, text, and chat functions. Visit the StrongHearts Native Helpline at <https://strongheartshelpline.org/>.

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center

The Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC) is devoted to strengthening local, tribal government's responses through community organizing efforts advocating for the safety of women and children in their communities and homes, especially against domestic and sexual abuse and violence. Visit the AKNWRC website at <https://www.aknwrc.org/>.



National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center provides national leadership to end violence against American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women by lifting up the collective voices of grassroots advocates and offering culturally grounded resources, technical assistance and training, and policy development to strengthen tribal sovereignty. Check out the NIWRC website at <https://www.niwrc.org/>.

FVPSA-FUNDED RESOURCE CENTERS

Click on the links below to access the various digital resources, tools and webinars.



National Health Resource Center

The NHRC is hosting a Lessons Learned About Survivor-Centered Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic (3-part Webinar Series) in April and May. Learn more about these opportunities by visiting the [NHRC upcoming webinars page](#).



National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

The NRC DV operates VAW.net to hold various events to educate, inform, and empower advocates and survivors. Head over to their website to check out the upcoming events, including the [2022 National Conference on Domestic Violence](#) scheduled for August 28 - 31.



Battered Women's Justice Project

Funded as a Special Interest Resource Center, the BWJP promotes systemic change within the civil and criminal justice systems to ensure an effective and just response to victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence (IPV) and the children exposed to violence. [Their website has various free prerecorded webinars.](#)



Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

The Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV) is holding a virtual healing workshop series for AAPI and MENA advocates affected by the parallel pandemics of COVID-19 AAPI-hate ongoing Islamophobia. The series will launch in May 2022 and will feature storytelling, cultural art and performance into healing from trauma. [Visit their website for more information.](#)



UJIMA - National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

UJIMA's [webinar and training pages](#) include a comprehensive list of resources to end domestic violence in the Black community.



Esperanza United

Esperanza United hosts various events, learning sessions, and offers resources to help entire Latin communities prevent gender-based violence. View their [calendar of events](#) to see the latest happenings.