Family Violence Prevention & Services Program

Program Overview

FYSB Mission
To support the organizations and communities that work every day to put an end to youth homelessness, adolescent pregnancy and domestic violence.

FYSB Vision
A future in which all our nation’s youth, individuals and families—no matter what challenges they may face—can live healthy, productive, violence-free lives.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE
The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) provides the primary federal funding stream dedicated to the support of emergency shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their dependents. FVPSA is located in the Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), a division of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families in the Administration for Children & Families. FYSB administers FVPSA formula grants to States, Territories and Tribes, State domestic violence coalitions, a hotline and national and special-issue resource centers.

FVPSA celebrated its 30th anniversary in October 2014. First authorized as part of the Child Abuse Amendments of 1984 (P.L. 98–457), FVPSA has been amended eight times. It was most recently reauthorized in December 2010 for five years by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. §§ 10401 – 10414).

The statute specifies how most of appropriated funds will be allocated, including three formula grants, the National Domestic Violence Hotline and competitive national resource center grants. The remaining discretionary funds are used for competitive grants, technical assistance and special projects that respond to critical or otherwise unaddressed issues. In 2015, the FVPSA appropriation is $135 million with an additional $4.5 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Distribution of FVPSA Funds

- Tribal Formula Grants, 10%
- State Domestic Violence Coalition Grants, 10%
- National and Special Issue Resource Centers, 6%
- Evaluation, Monitoring and Administration, 2.5%
- Discretionary, 1.5%
- State and Territorial Formula Grants, 70%
THE NEED FOR SERVICES

- Approximately 12.6 million people in the United States experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.²
- Nearly 30 percent of women and 10 percent of men in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported at least one impact related to experiencing these or other forms of violent behavior in the relationship (such as being fearful or concerned for safety; having posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms or injuries; contacting a crisis hotline; needing health care, housing services, victim's advocate services, or legal services; or missing at least one day of work or school).²
- Almost 10 percent of children witnessed family violence in the past year.³
- Men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence as children were almost four times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults.⁴

Serving Families in Crisis

FVPSA formula grants are awarded to every state and territory and over 200 Tribes. In 2014, the FVPSA State and Tribal Grants funded 1,250 domestic violence shelter programs, 257 domestic violence non-shelter programs and 137 Tribal domestic violence grants, providing both a safe haven and an array of supportive services to intervene in and prevent abuse. Each year, FVPSA-funded programs serve about 1.2 million victims and their children and respond to 2.6 million crisis calls. FVPSA-funded programs do not just serve victims; they also reach their communities. Programs provide about 180,000 presentations reaching 4.7 million people, of which almost half are youth.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides a compassionate and caring response to thousands of victims and survivors of domestic violence, their families and friends, and concerned others. Each month, the hotline answers about 17,500 calls. The hotline provides crisis intervention, counseling, and safety planning and can directly connect callers to a seamless referral system of over 4,500 community programs across the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is available in 170 languages. It also provides services to deaf and hard of hearing callers.
Domestic Violence Resource Network

FVPSA supports two national resource centers on domestic violence, along with special issue and culturally specific resource centers. These organizations ensure that victims of domestic violence, advocates, community-based programs, educators, legal assistance providers, justice personnel, health care providers, policy makers, and government leaders at the local, state, Tribal, and federal levels have access to up-to-date information on best practices, policies, research, and victim resources.

Additional Projects

In 2013, FVPSA began a new grant program focused on building the capacity of culturally specific, community-based organizations to offer evidence-informed domestic violence and trauma services. The Domestic Violence Evidence Project is a comprehensive evidence review of services to victims and an online resource center at www.dvevidenceproject.org. A companion site, Promising Futures: Best Practices for Serving Children, Youth and Parents Experiencing Domestic Violence, is at www.PromisingFuturesWithoutViolence.org. FVPSA continues its grant to expand leadership opportunities in the domestic violence field for people from underrepresented groups.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE NETWORK:

- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center
- Battered Women’s Justice Project
- National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health
- Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody
- LGBTQ Capacity Building Learning Center
- Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
- Casa de Esperanza
- Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community


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