

FVPSA Program Overview

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

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 and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), a division of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families in the Administration for Children and Families. FYSB administers FVPSA formula grants to States, Territories and Tribes, State domestic violence coalitions, and national and special-issue resource centers.

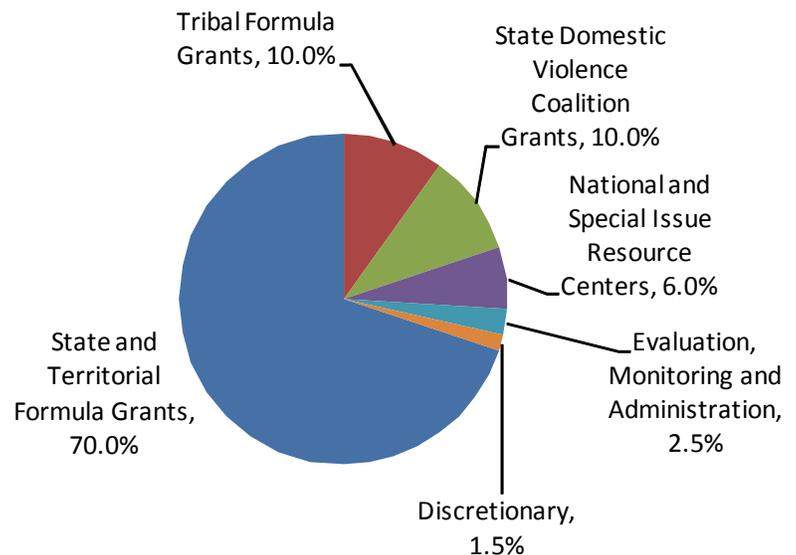
First authorized as part of the Child Abuse Amendments of 1984 (P.L. 98-457), FVPSA has been amended eight times. It was most recently reauthorized in December 2011 for five years by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-320 42 U.S.C. 10401, et. seq.).

The statute specifies how most of appropriated funds will be allocated, including three formula grants 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. The FVPSA Program also administers the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which receives its own line-item appropriation.

American Indian and Alaska Native women are battered, raped and stalked at more than twice the rate of any other group of U.S. women.¹

10% of FVPSA grants are dedicated to Tribes and distributed based on population.

Distribution of FVPSA Funds



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 in 2010.²
- Nearly 30% of women and 10% 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 (e.g., being fearful, concerned for safety, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, need for health care, injury, contacting a crisis hotline, need for housing services, need for victim's advocate services, need for legal services, missed at least one day of work or school).²
- Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every 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. These funds reach more than 1,600 domestic violence shelters and 1,100 non-residential service sites, providing both a safe haven and an array of supportive services to intervene in and prevent abuse. In fiscal year 2010, FVPSA-funded programs served over 1.3 million victims and their children and responded to 2.7 million crisis calls. FVPSA-funded programs do not just serve victims, they reach their communities; in 2010, programs provided 170,000 community education presentations reaching almost 2.4 million adults and 1.9 million youth.

National Domestic Violence HOTLINE

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
1-800-787-3224 TTY For the Deaf

The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides an immediate response to thousands of victims and survivors of domestic violence, their families and friends and concerned others. In 2011, the Hotline received 277,454 calls. The Hotline directly connects the caller to a seamless referral system of over 5,000 community programs in response to callers' needs. The Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is available in 170 languages. In 2011, the Hotline answered its 3 millionth call. Over 91% of callers report this as their first call for help.

Domestic Violence Resource Network

FVPSA supports two national resource centers on domestic violence, four special issue resource centers and three culturally specific institutes. 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. More information on the Domestic Violence Resource network is at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/familyviolence/centers.htm.

Domestic Violence Resource Network:

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

Additional Projects

Beginning in 2010, grants were awarded to four statewide capacity building projects and one national technical assistance provider to expand services for children and youth exposed to domestic violence. A grant was awarded to the Women of Color Network to develop a leadership academy for domestic violence program staff from underserved communities. In 2012, FVPSA released the results of a research study that documents how domestic violence programs are meeting survivors' needs. It can be accessed at www.vawnet.org/research/MeetingSurvivorsNeeds.

¹ Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy, U.S. Department of Justice, "Full Report on the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of violence Against Women," 22 (2000).

² Black MC, Basile KC, Breiding MJ, et al. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

³ McDonald, R., et al. (2006). "Estimating the Number of American Children Living in Partner-Violence Families." *Journal of Family Psychology*, 30(1), 137-142.

⁴ Whitfield, C.L., Anda, R.F., Dube, S.R., & Felitti, V.J. (2003) Violent childhood experiences and the risk of intimate partner violence in adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18, 166-185.

For more information, please contact the Division of Family Violence
Prevention and Services at 202-401-5319. Date updated: **June 2012**.