



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #541

Sexual Assault Victim Services Grants (Justice -- Victim and Witness Services)

[LFB 2023-25 Budget Summary: Page 381, #2 and Page 372, #7 (part)]

CURRENT LAW

Under 1993 Act 16, a sexual assault victim services grant program (SAVS) was created, beginning January 1, 1995. Grants are provided by DOJ to eligible nonprofit corporations or public agencies to provide (or subcontract to provide) all the following services for sexual assault victims:

1. Advocacy and counseling services;
2. 24-hour crisis telephone services;
3. Educational programs on professional intervention and community prevention; and
4. Services for persons living in rural areas, men, children, elderly or physically disabled persons, minority groups or other groups of victims that have special needs within the service area of the nonprofit corporation or public agency.

An eligible organization may not receive more than 70% of its operating budget from grants provided under this program and may not contract, subcontract or enter into agreements with other organizations or individuals to provide all of the required services. When DOJ reviews grant applications, it must consider local needs for sexual assault victim services, the coordination of the applicant's services with other victim resources, the needs of rural and urban communities, and the needs of existing and proposed programs and services.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Sexual assault victim services grants are awarded on a calendar year basis. In 2023, 47 agencies were awarded grants totaling \$2,226,800. The attachment identifies the agencies which

received SAVS grants in 2023, as well as the award each agency received, the city of each agency's main office, and the counties the agencies serve.

2. In 2021-22 and 2022-23, \$2,235,400 GPR was appropriated for providing SAVS grants and administering the program. In 2021-22, the child pornography surcharge generated \$276,000 PR. Of this amount, \$75,800 was utilized for the SAVS grant funding. In 2022-23, DOJ estimates that the child pornography surcharge will generate \$250,000 to use for the SAVS grant funding.

3. Table 1 shows the number of people that grantees served in 2021 and 2022, by type of sexual assault service. Under 2021 Act 58, SAVS funding was increased by \$100,000 GPR annually.

TABLE 1

Number of People Served by Sexual Assault Victim Services Grantees by Service Type

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Community Education, Outreach, Prevention (individuals attending presentations)	170,962	108,105
24 Hour Crisis Response/Information referral	30,444	39,847
Personal/Legal/Criminal Advocacy	13,059	15,175
Medical Advocacy	1,534	2,012
Support Groups	1,289	2,124
Therapy	2,053	1,908

A. Sexual Assault Victim Services Expansion

4. The bill would provide an additional \$5,000,000 GPR annually for SAVS grants. This funding is intended to expand grant availability to providers of sexual assault victim services. [Alternative A1] Base funding for grants and program administration is \$2,236,600 GPR with 0.4 GPR position.

5. The SAVS grant funding expansion is not based on specific identified demand. As a result, the Committee could provide increased support but at a lower level than under the bill. [Alternative A2] This alternative would result in an additional \$3,000,000 GPR [Alternative A2a] or \$1,000,000 GPR [Alternative A2b] annually in SAVS grants.

B. Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

6. The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) provides "advocacy for the sexual assault service providers in WI, otherwise known as technical assistance (TA). TA is one way we provide support to providers through phone conversations, emails, web conference calls, in-person meetings, training and program visits. Training is provided, statewide, regional, as webinars and program-specific." The Office of Crime Victim Services has historically contracted with WCASA to provide technical assistance, but federal Victims of Crime Act funding used for this purpose has decreased in recent years. Since WCASA provides technical assistance and not direct services, DOJ indicates that WCASA is not eligible to apply for SAVS grants under current law. In 2021, the Office

of Crime Victim Services provided WCASA with a \$200,000 grant from ARPA funds.

7. In order to support WCASA, which could provide additional training and technical assistance to ensure high quality sexual assault services, the Committee could, as provided in AB 43/SB 70, specify that of the amount provided above, \$343,000 GPR annually be provided to the WCASA and that the Coalition may also apply for additional grants under the program. [Alternative B1] Funding of \$343,000 GPR represents 5% of the \$6,857,000 GPR that would be available for grants to other organizations.

C. SAVS Administration

8. Further, OCVS is generally responsible for providing direct assistance to victims and witnesses of crimes and administering programs that support services to crime victims. Currently, there are 8.0 grant specialists in OCVS, of which 7.6 are FED positions. In order to assist OCVS with the expansion of the SAVS program, the bill would provide an additional grant specialist and \$79,300 GPR in 2023-24 and \$97,500 GPR in 2024-25 and 1.0 GPR position annually to assist with grant administration. [Alternative C1] If the Committee expands the SAVS grant program additional administrative resources could be provided.

9. If no action is taken, funding for SAVS grants would remain at base level funding of \$2,493,500 annually (\$2,236,600 GPR and \$256,900 PR) and no grant to WCASA would be specified.

ALTERNATIVES

A. Sexual Assault Victim Services Expansion

1. Provide \$5,000,000 GPR annually to increase grants to providers of services to victims of sexual assault.

ALTA1	Change to Base
GPR	\$10,000,000

2. Provide \$3,000,000 GPR or \$1,000,000 GPR annually to increase grants to providers of services to victims of sexual assault.

ALT A2a	Change to Base
GPR	\$6,000,000

ALT A2b	Change to Base
GPR	\$2,000,000

3. Take no action.

B. Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

1. Of the amount specified in the Alternative A1 or A2, specify that \$343,000 GPR annually be provided to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault and that the Coalition may also apply for additional grants under the program.

2. Take no action.

C. SAVS Administration

1. Provide the Office of Victim Services \$79,300 GPR in 2023-24 and \$97,500 GPR in 2024-25 and 1.0 GPR position annually.

ALT C1	Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$176,800	1.00

2. Take no action.

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Attachment

ATTACHMENT

2023 Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) Grants January 1 – December 31, 2023

Agency	City of Main Office	Area(s) Served	Award
Advocates of Ozaukee	Saukville	Ozaukee County	\$40,699
Association for the Prevention of Family Violence, New Beginnings	Elkhorn	Walworth County	\$41,942
ASTOP, Inc.	Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties	\$70,000
Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Aurora Healing and Advocacy Services	Milwaukee	Milwaukee County	\$80,923
AVAIL, Inc.	Antigo	Langlade County	\$38,825
BeLEAF Survivors	Racine	Racine County	\$55,733
Bolton Refuge House	Eau Claire	Jackson County	\$17,975
Monroe County Sheltercare-Brighter Tomorrows	Sparta	Monroe County	\$26,279
CAP Services, Inc.	Stevens Point	Portage, Waupaca, and Waushara Counties	\$56,345
Caring House, Inc.	Iron Mountain, MI	Florence County	\$12,871
Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse	Superior	Douglas County	\$46,891
Cia Siab, Inc.	La Crosse	La Crosse County	\$67,193
Community Referral Agency	Milltown	Polk and Burnett Counties	\$25,510
DOVE, Inc.	Ironwood, MI	Iron County	\$39,416
Embrace Services, Inc.	Ladysmith	Rusk, Price, and Washburn Counties	\$50,661
Family Advocates	Platteville	Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties	\$43,933
Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin-Sexual Assault Center	Green Bay	Brown, Oconto, Marinette, and Door Counties	\$130,140
Family Services of Southern WI and Northern IL-Sexual Assault Response Program	Beloit	Rock and Green Counties	\$45,777
Family Support Center	Chippewa Falls	Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties	\$53,530
Friends, Inc.	West Bend	Washington County	\$35,616

HAVEN, Inc.	Merrill	Lincoln County	\$34,498
Hmong American Friendship Association	Milwaukee	Milwaukee County	\$29,555
Hmong American Women's Association	Milwaukee	Milwaukee County	\$41,895
Hope House of South Central Wisconsin	Baraboo	Sauk, Columbia, Adams, Juneau, and Marquette Counties	\$158,450
In Courage, Inc.	Manitowoc	Manitowoc County	\$28,014
Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth	Milwaukee	Milwaukee County	\$56,383
New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers	La Crosse	Trempealeau County	\$46,646
Northwoods Women, Inc./New Day Shelter	Ashland	Ashland and Bayfield Counties	\$39,021
Passages, Inc.	Richland Center	Richland, Vernon, and Crawford Counties	\$57,225
PAVE, Inc.	Beaver Dam	Dodge County	\$45,780
Personal Development Center	Marshfield	Clark County	\$29,619
Rape Crisis Center	Madison	Dane County	\$90,042
Reach Counseling Services	Neenah	Winnebago, Outagamie, and Calumet Counties	\$84,510
Safe Harbor of Sheboygan County	Sheboygan	Sheboygan County	\$42,910
Safe Haven	Shawano	Shawano and Menominee Counties	\$41,221
Stepping Stones	Medford	Taylor County	\$23,500
The Bridge to Hope	Menomonie	Dunn and Pepin Counties	\$30,000
The Women's Center	Waukesha	Waukesha County	\$25,125
The Women's Community	Wausau	Marathon County	\$34,895
Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Rhineland	Oneida, Vilas, and Forest Counties	\$33,855
Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Abuse	River Falls	Pierce and St. Croix Counties	\$34,288
United Migrant Opportunity Services, Latina Resource Center	Milwaukee	Milwaukee County	\$40,440

Violence Intervention Project	Algoma	Kewaunee County	\$38,803
We All Rise, African American Resource Center	Green Bay	Brown County	\$56,383
Wisconsin Rapids Family Center	Wisconsin Rapids	Wood County	\$53,526
Women & Children's Horizons	Kenosha	Kenosha County	\$49,956
Total Amount for 46 Grants			\$2,226,800

