



## Office of Children and Family Services

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**SHEILA J. POOLE**  
Commissioner

February 7, 2022

Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center

Tentative Award: \$194670

**Re: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Rape Crisis Centers and Sexual Assault Programs Supplemental COVID-19 Funding Opportunity Letter of Interest – Response Required**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has recently received Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Supplemental COVID-19 funds, through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), to support to rape crisis centers and sexual assault (SA) programs. OCFS plans to distribute \$7.6 million in ARP-SA funds via a non-competitive process to all New York State Department of Health (DOH) certified Rape Crisis Centers that are eligible for this funding. Awards are contingent upon the continued availability of funds, approval of the New York State Division of Budget, provision of all required vendor responsibility documentation, prequalification or current certification in the Grants Gateway, and OCFS's determination that the provider is responsible and in good standing. Award amounts will be determined by a population-based methodology that considers counties served. There will be one grant made available per agency.

Grant awards will be made in three annual payments and may be utilized for expenses incurred and paid during the period from **October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2024**. Attached to this email is **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Rape Crisis Centers and Sexual Assault Programs Supplemental COVID-19 Funding Overview and Guidelines**, which provides a detailed description of the grant and requirements. This letter briefly highlights other elements of this exciting initiative. Please read the information carefully.

### **How does the Grant work?**

The grant is designed to provide impactful financial assistance to all eligible New York State Department of Health (DOH) certified Rape Crisis Centers in a fast and easy way. OCFS has created a simple online application via Microsoft Forms to submit the application and attestations. Once the application and required attestations are completed and all pre-funding requirements are satisfied, three annual payments will be disbursed directly to the program, as long as they are in good standing and continue to meet the grant requirements. Payment begins within 30 days of application approval and completion of pre-funding requirements. **The grant application is available from February 7, 2022, until February 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.** You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

### **Who is eligible?**

You are receiving this letter because OCFS has determined that your agency is eligible. All DOH Certified Rape Crisis Centers that are not a government agency or part of the criminal justice system and provide services to victims without regard to their age have been determined to be eligible for this grant.

## What can I use the money for?

The overall intent of this funding is to 1) assist with the transition to virtual/remote services for rape crisis centers, sexual assault programs, tribal programs, and culturally specific programs that provide crisis services, support services, and assistance to survivors of sexual assault, and 2) support the increased emergency needs of sexual assault survivors as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. ARP Grants to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault supplemental funding can be used to meet the basic needs of survivors of sexual assault and can be used to support the operation and administration of rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs as well as to provide supportive services to ensure that survivors receive the care, support and services they need while reducing the exposure to and risk of contracting the COVID-19.

Please see the **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Rape Crisis Centers and Sexual Assault Programs Supplemental COVID-19 Funding Overview and Guidelines** for a detailed description of the allowable uses of the funding.

Please note that awarded funds may be used to pay expenses/debt incurred and paid on or after October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2024, if those expenses/purchases were made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. While the program does not need to submit receipts or documentation to OCFS, unless requested, the program **MUST** keep all documentation regarding the use of these funds for a period of six (6) years after the end of the grant.

## What do I do next?

Follow the link provided below and complete the survey to accept or decline participation in this funding opportunity. The survey should be completed by a person authorized to accept or decline the award for your agency, and to make all attestations that will be required in the application. The survey can be completed on a computer or other mobile device. The text of the attestations is included in the attached **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Rape Crisis Centers and Sexual Assault Programs Supplemental COVID-19 Funding Overview and Guidelines**.

**Your survey response must be received by February 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Failure to respond on or before the date specified will constitute a declination of this funding opportunity.**

**Respond here:** <https://forms.office.com/g/XK7fG4gR2n>

Upon receipt of your application indicating your acceptance of the grant funding, your award will be considered tentatively approved contingent upon OCFS' Vendor Responsibility Review and continued availability of funding. Upon final approval, an award letter and additional information will be forwarded to you.

Not-for-profits must verify that their Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire is recertified in the VendRep System<sup>[1]</sup> and the certified questionnaire must be within six months of the final date to apply for the grant. Not-for-profits must also remain current with the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau<sup>[2]</sup> and maintain a "prequalified" status within Grants Gateway<sup>[3]</sup>. Local governments are exempt from VendRep, Grants Gateway

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<sup>[1]</sup> See [The VendRep System | Office of the New York State Comptroller](https://www.osc.state.ny.us/state-vendors/vendrep/vendrep-system), <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/state-vendors/vendrep/vendrep-system>

<sup>[2]</sup> [NYS Charities Annual Filing - New York State Office of the Attorney General \(charitiesnys.com\)](https://charitiesnys.com)

<sup>[3]</sup> [Get Prequalified | Grants Management \(ny.gov\)](https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/get-prequalified), <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/get-prequalified>

and Charities Bureau. All programs must obtain their current Workers Compensation and Disability Certificates (with the exception of local governments, who are exempt from the Disability Certificate); the Certificates must have NYS OCFS 52 Washington Street, Rensselaer NY 12144 as the certificate holder and you will need to email them to [ocfs.sm.dvbureau@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:ocfs.sm.dvbureau@ocfs.ny.gov). Please include your agency name and reference "FVPSA ARP RCC Grant" in the subject line.

As a recipient of federal funds, you must be registered in the System for Award Management [www.sam.gov] and maintain an active listing. To get started, the vendor just needs to create a user account. The System for Award Management (SAM) is an official website of the U.S. government. There is no cost to register. After the user account is created, the vendor will need to log in to register to do business with the U.S. government. The site portal is as follows: <https://www.sam.gov/>

### **What do I do if I have questions?**

If you need assistance with completing your application or have questions, you can email the OCFS Bureau of Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Support at [ocfs.sm.dvbureau@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:ocfs.sm.dvbureau@ocfs.ny.gov).

Awards are contingent upon the continued availability of funds, approval by the Division of the Budget, provision of all required vendor responsibility documentation, prequalification in the grants gateway and OCFS's determination that the provider is responsible and in good standing. Any funds declined in the online application may be reallocated to programs that opt to receive a grant award under this program.

Thank you,



Jara Renee Traina, Esq.  
Director, Bureau of Domestic Violence Prevention & Victim Support