



Sexual Assault Victim Services & Programs 2027

Competitive Grants Office Hours FAQs

Office of Crime Victim Services

Violence Against Women Act Sexual Assault Services Program (VAWA SASP) and Sexual Assault Victims Services (SAVS) FAQs

Q: If I'm applying for only one funding source, for example SAVS, what do I put in the SASP Budget area in order to submit my application?

A: If you are applying for one funding source, please put "N/A" into the other's budget area. So, in this example you'd put "N/A" in the SASP budget area to be able to "mark as complete" and submit your application.

Q: The program area says VAWA SASP Formula Grant Program, how do I change it to reflect SAVS?

A: The program area is a function of WebGrants for OCVS to use and can be ignored by applicants. It does not indicate which funding source(s) the application intends to use.

Q: Will SAVS grant have the same out-of-scope activities that are associated with SASP funding?

A: No. SAVS is state funding, and the SASP out-of-scope activities do not apply to it. SASP out-of-scope activities only apply to OVW federal funding.

Q: Could my grant application be fully funded, even if our agency applies for both SASP and SAVS?

A: Yes. An application may be fully funded, partially funded, or denied. In the event OCVS determines a proposed project is better suited to be funded under either SAVS or SASP, OCVS will contact the applicant to allow them to provide required information or to withdraw the application.

Q: Can SASP funds be used to provide direct legal services?



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A: No. SASP funds cannot support direct legal services as this is considered out-of-scope. An example of direct legal services is having a program attorney funded with SASP grant funds.

Q: Is there a cap on the amount of funds we can apply for?

A: No. Since this is a competitive grant opportunity, you may apply for the amount your agency needs.

Q: Can SASP funds be used to purchase food?

A: Yes. Agencies may use SASP funding to purchase food for emergency client needs for victims of sexual assault and their immediate family members, as a result of the victimization. Food may also be purchased for clients during therapy or counseling sessions. SASP funding cannot be used to pay for food for agency meetings, trainings, or costs not tied to direct client assistance.

Q: Should we apply for the amount we were previously awarded?

A: That decision is up to each applicant. Since this is a competitive grant opportunity, you are not guaranteed the same amount you have been awarded in the past.

Q: Are there limits in the amount of emergency victim assistance or direct victim assistance funds that can go towards one individual or family?

A: No, and it does not need to be budgeted as separate line items. For example, you do not need separate line items for victim assistance (i.e. rent and victim assistance utilities).

Q: Is it two applications or just one?



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A: Applicants will submit one application consisting of one narrative, describing how the proposed project(s) will provide sexual assault services for the agency (as a whole) and up to two budgets, one for SASP and one for SAVS. Applicants may choose to apply for either SASP funding, SAVS funding, or both grant programs.

Q: Can we potentially receive two grants? Or will we only receive one or the other?

A: An application may be fully funded, partially funded, or denied. Applicants may receive both SAVS and SASP funding.

Q: How long does the grant run for?

A: Grants start January 1, 2027, and end December 31, 2027. Funding is available for a one-year project period, with the possibility of two additional years of continuation funding. Each year, you would submit a continuation application to receive the same award amount. Continued funding is contingent upon federal and state funds available, subgrant compliance, and compliance with grant award conditions.

Q: Why would we not apply for both pots of money?

A: It can depend on each applicant's needs and agency capacity. Due to the smaller amount of funds available under SASP, an applicant may not be interested in applying for those funds due to a more competitive process. An applicant may be more interested in applying for SAVS funding due to out-of-scope activities under SASP.

Q: If we are currently getting both SAVS and SASP funding should we be concerned about eligibility?

A: No; If your agency currently receives both SAVS and SASP grants, you meet the eligibility criteria to apply for both grant programs.



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Q: Are there limits on services areas?

A: SAVS funds are limited to victims in the state of WI. If an agency provides mobile advocacy and/or other services to a neighboring county, this should be explained in the grant application and justified for grant funding.

Q: Will we receive only one grant if we apply for both SAVS and SASP?

A: If awarded, it will be one grant contract but could have both SASP and SAVS funds awarded to it. Pending external reviews and internal approval, agencies will be notified if they are awarded grant funds.

Q: What is the difference between the first funding announcement and the revised funding announcement that was sent out on August 6?

A: The revised funding announcement sent out on August 6 clarified which federal SASP out-of-scope activities have been stayed by court order, and which are still in place. This is referenced on page 8 of the funding announcement.

Q: Is it allowable to make direct payments to victims?

A: SASP- Yes direct client assistance is allowable. Direct payments to victims and their family or household members must be for costs related to the sexual assault. Examples are included in the funding announcement. Organizations should develop a policy and/or procedure specifying the types of expenses to be covered by direct client assistance and the method of monitoring such funds.

SAVS- Emergency victim assistance funds are allowable under the SAVS grant. Organizations should develop a policy and/or procedure specifying the types of expenses to be covered by emergency victim assistance and the method of monitoring such funds. Additional information is included in the [SAVS Grant Program Guidelines](#).



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Q: Could this grant be used to continue the DCF DV Housing First grant that ends 12/31/26?

A: This funding opportunity is not an extension of the DCF-DV Housing First grant program. SASP and SAVS funding can only support direct sexual assault services, not domestic violence services. Housing services for sexual assault survivors is listed as a funding priority in the funding announcement. Housing services for sexual assault survivors may encompass advocacy, community outreach, and direct client assistance.

Q: Is jail outreach considered an underserved population?

A: Yes, make sure the application explains how that is an underserved population in your community and for your organization.

Q: Can we apply for SAVS and/or SASP funding if our organization has not received funding in the past?

A: Yes. Applicants may apply for SAVS and/or SASP funding if they meet the eligibility criteria: nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, tribal organizations, or local and state organizations. Eligible applicants must also provide a demonstrated history of serving sexual assault survivors.

Q: What does the definition of nongovernmental organization mean for eligibility purposes?

A: Nonprofit Organization Requirement – 501(c)(3) Status: Any entity that is eligible for the VAWA SASP and SAVS 2027 Competitive Grant program based on its status as a nonprofit organization must be an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code. See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(16)(B).