



Sexual Assault Victim Services & Programs 2027 Competitive Grants

Funding Announcement

Wisconsin Department of Justice
Office of Crime Victim Services

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SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
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Table of Contents

Sexual Assault Victim Services & Programs 2027 Competitive Grants Funding Announcement.....	2
Funding Announcement Description.....	2
Important Dates.....	2
Anticipated Funding Amount	2
Funding Priority Areas.....	3
Match/Cost Sharing Requirement.....	3
Non-Supplantation.....	3
Eligibility.....	4
SAM Entity Registration	5
Sexual Assault Victim Services & Programs 2027 Competitive Grant Descriptions.....	5
SAVS Grant Program	5
SASP Formula Grant Program	6
Application Components	9
Required Attachments	16
How to Submit the Application	17
Application Review and Award Criteria	17
Post-Award Special Conditions/Reporting Requirements	18



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Sexual Assault Victim Services & Programs 2027 Competitive Grants Funding Announcement

Funding Announcement Description

Competitive funding announcement for both the state Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) grant and the federal Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP). Applicants will submit one application consisting of a single narrative and up to two separate budgets, one for SAVS and one for SASP. SAVS grant funds are intended for the development, expansion, enhancement, and/or support of comprehensive sexual assault services and are available to victims of sexual assault regardless of where they reside in Wisconsin. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) SASP grant funds are awarded annually to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (WI DOJ) Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) by the US Department of Justice (USDJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

Important Dates

Application Due Date: September 27, 2026

Project Start Date: January 1, 2027

Project End Date: December 31, 2027

Anticipated Funding Amount

Total funds in the amount of \$3,125,000 are available for a one-year project period, with the possibility of two additional years of continuation funding. Continued funding is contingent upon federal and state funds available, subgrant compliance with federal and state guidelines, and compliance with grant award conditions. OCVS reserves the right to amend, change, or reduce subgrant award amounts for each continuation grant year.

Applicants may submit a maximum of two budgets in order to apply for the grant funds listed below.

\$2,325,000 is available for SAVS grants.

\$800,000 is available for SASP grants.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Funding Priority Areas

Requests for funds should consider the following priority areas, but no extra points will be given during the grant review process:

- Housing services for sexual assault survivors.
 - Please refer to the [National Sexual Assault Housing Collaborative Toolkit](#) for best practice resources.
- Flexible financial support to sexual assault survivors, their family, or household members.
 - Direct payments to survivors, their family or household members must be for costs related to the sexual assault.
- Strengthening and sustaining sexual assault services.
 - i.e. medical and systems advocacy, crisis counseling, etc.
- Community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities as defined in [34 U.S.C. §12291\(a\)\(9\)](#).

Match/Cost Sharing Requirement

No match is required for both SAVS and SASP grants. [Wis. Stat. 165.93\(2\)\(b\)](#) requires the organization not receive more than 70 percent of its operating budget from grants.

Non-Supplantation

Federal funds must be used to supplement existing state and local government funds for program activities and must not supplant those funds that have been appropriated for the same purposes. Violations may result in penalties, such as suspension of current and future funds under this program, suspension or debarment from federal grants, repayment of monies provided under a grant, and civil and/or criminal penalties.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Eligibility

This is a competitive grant application open to nonprofit, nongovernmental, tribal, and other local and state organizations. Applicants must provide a demonstrated history of serving sexual assault survivors.

To be eligible for a **SAVS** grant, an applicant must provide or propose to provide all the following services to sexual assault victims:

- Advocacy and counseling services.
- Crisis telephone line services on a 24 hours per day and 7 days per week basis.
- Professional education about intervention for sexual assault victims and community education programs for the prevention of sexual assault.
- Services for persons living in rural areas, men, children, elderly persons, physically disabled persons, culturally specific groups and other groups of victims that have special needs. This subdivision does not require the applicant to provide services to any group of persons that does not reside in the applicant's service area.

See [SAVS Grant Program Guidelines](#) on the [SAVS webpage](#) for the SAVS Program Description.

To be eligible for a **SASP** grant, an applicant must show how to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance to:

- Adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault;
- Family and household members of such victims; and
- Those collaterally affected by the victimization, except by the perpetrator of such victimization.

For additional information on the SASP Formula Program, see the [OVW Funding Opportunities webpage](#).



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

SAM Entity Registration

All applicants must have an active account with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). This includes having a unique entity identifier (UEI). [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration can take several weeks. To register, go to <https://sam.gov/entity-registration>.

Sexual Assault Victim Services & Programs 2027 Competitive Grant Descriptions

SAVS Grant Program

The SAVS grant was created under [Wis. Stat. § 165.93](#) to develop, expand, enhance, and/or support comprehensive sexual assault victim services so they are available to victims of sexual assault regardless of where they reside in Wisconsin. Examples of sexual assault core services include:

- 24-hour crisis response;
- Personal and systems advocacy;
- Information and referral;
- Support groups;
- Accessible services; and
- Community outreach and prevention education

Examples of unallowable activities under the SAVS grant include:

- Victim's cost/reimbursement for expenses incurred during the commission of a crime.
- Forensic medical examinations.
- Investigation services to prosecute the crime.
- Sex offender treatment and rehabilitation



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

- Staffing domestic violence shelters. (OCVS recognizes SAVS-funded staff employed at dual sexual assault-domestic violence agencies may need to fill-in during emergency staffing situations or may be split-funded to provide domestic violence services. However, the SAVS grant will not fund employee time spent providing domestic violence services).

See [SAVS Grant Program Guidelines](#) on the [SAVS webpage](#) for additional information on allowable and unallowable services.

SASP Formula Grant Program

The purpose of the SASP grant is to provide direct intervention and support services to victims of sexual violence that is culturally relevant and responsive to immediate and long-term needs. The statutory authority for SASP is codified under [34 U.S.C. § 12511](#).

The SASP Formula Program does not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety and recovery, deter healing for victims, and undermine offender accountability. Information on these activities may be found in the [Application Companion Guide](#) on the OVW website.

Intervention and related assistance under SASP may include:

- 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referral.
- Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice, and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings.
- Crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, direct payments, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and family or household members.
- Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim and family or household members.
- Community-based, culturally specific services and support mechanisms, including outreach activities for underserved communities.
- Development and distribution of materials on issues related to the services described above.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Direct payments to victims and their family or household members must be for costs related to the sexual assault. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Replacement bedding, clothing, or other household items.
- Securing new or temporary housing, including paying a security deposit, first month's rent, or moving expenses.
- Travel expenses.
- Childcare expenses.
- Food, including culturally appropriate food.
- Utility assistance (other than utilities in arrears).
- Security measures such as re-keying locks, replacing a cell phone, or purchasing a motion detector or security camera that does not require additional installation expenses.

OVW has determined the activities below to be out of the program scope, and they will not be supported by the SASP Formula Program funding. SAVS grant funding is not subject to any OVW out-of-scope activities listed below:

- Research projects. Funds under this program may not be used to conduct research, defined by 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d) as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. However, assessments conducted for internal improvement purposes only may be allowable.
- Generic community engagement or economic development without a clear link to violence prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
- Excessive funding for consulting fees, training, administrative costs, or other expenses not related to measurable violence prevention, victim support, and offender accountability.
- Activities addressing human trafficking unrelated to sexual assault.
- Activities addressing Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) unrelated to sexual assault.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice

- Activities focused on prevention efforts and education (e.g., bystander prevention, social norms campaigns, presentations on healthy relationships, etc.).
- Criminal justice-related projects, including funding for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and forensic interviews.
- Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examiner programs.
- Sexual Assault Response Team coordination.
- Providing training to allied professions and the community (e.g. law enforcement, child protection services, prosecution, other community-based organizations, etc.).
- Domestic violence services unrelated to sexual violence.
- Legal Services.

Due to a Federal District Court order, [*Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al., v. Pamela Bondi, et al.*](#), the following OVW out-of-scope activities are stayed by order of the court. These out-of-scope activities are not currently enforceable as to any OVW FY 2025 funding unless the preliminary stay is lifted, in which case the conditions would apply. The stayed out-of-scope activities are listed below, and appear as conditions #2-5, #7-9, and #11 on pages 5-6 of the court's opinion. These conditions relate only to federal SASP grant funding; state SAVS grant funding is not subject to any of these conditions, regardless of the outcome of the litigation.:

- Promoting or facilitating the violation of federal immigration law.
- Inculcating or promoting gender ideology as defined in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.
- Promoting or facilitating discriminatory programs or ideology, including illegal DEI and "diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility" programs that do not advance the policy of equal dignity and respect, as described in Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity. This prohibition is not intended to interfere with any of OVW's statutory obligations, such as funding for HBCUs, culturally specific services, and disability programs.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

- Activities that frame domestic violence or sexual assault as systemic social justice issues rather than criminal offenses (e.g., prioritizing criminal justice reform or social justice theories over victim safety and offender accountability.)
- Programs that discourage collaboration with law enforcement or oppose or limit the role of police, prosecutors, or immigration enforcement in addressing violence against women.
- Awareness campaigns or media that do not lead to tangible improvements in prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
- Initiatives that prioritize illegal aliens over U.S. citizens and legal residents in receiving victim services and support.
- Any activity or program that unlawfully violates an Executive Order.

Costs associated with the activities listed below are unallowable with SASP funds:

- Lobbying.
- Fundraising.
- Purchase of real property.
- Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting).
- Construction.

Application Components

Please note: All application components are subject to [open records requests](#).

General Information

All applications must be submitted through WI DOJ's web-based grants management system called WebGrants. To simplify the application process, we ask that agencies follow the guidelines below.

- Specify which grant program(s) you are applying for in the title of your application. Applicants will be able to submit a separate budget for each grant program in WebGrants.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

- When identifying individuals involved in this grant, the project director, financial officer, and signing official must be three separate individuals.
- Only include information and attachments specifically requested in this funding announcement.

Personnel

This section in WebGrants asks for information about your agency and the individuals responsible for the application and grant award. There are many required fields on this page, so if you encounter problems, please check online help by clicking the Online Help button.

The Project Director will be the main point of contact for all grant-related communications. The Financial Officer is the individual responsible for financial activities in your organization while the project director will be overseeing project operations. The Signatory should be the highest elected official, or a designated proxy by the highest elected official, for the agency. All three should be separate individuals with three separate emails. This will be important for certifying Claims Reimbursements and other communication.

Project Summary

In the Brief Project Description text box, please describe your project in 150 words or less. A suggested format is included for your convenience:

“Funds (describe which sexual assault grant funds will be used) will be used by (your agency name and others involved in the project) to (describe the sexual assault services provided). The grant project will (describe the specific goals you hope to achieve, and which areas of the state will benefit).”

Responses to this section will be used on the WI DOJ website, cited in WI DOJ reports, and could be mentioned in press releases. Plain language that clearly describes the intent of the project is most effective.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Budget Detail

This section in WebGrants asks for information about your proposed project budget. As a reminder, applicants may submit a maximum of two budgets in order to apply for either SAVS and/or SASP grant funds.

Complete a proposed project budget for SAVS and/or SASP funds that covers costs between January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027, using the categories listed below. For each category used, enter a justification that describes how the items in that category will be used during the grant period. It is important that you include specific details for each budget line item, including cost calculations.

Personnel: Provide salary information for employees proposed to be funded through the grant. For each employee, list position title and name. Show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time devoted to the project. Do not include contractors in this budget category.

Employee Benefits: Employee benefits are for the personnel listed in the proposed budget and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project. Employee benefits for grant-funded personnel include FICA, Unemployment Compensation, Health Insurance, etc. and amounts budgeted should be based on actual known costs or an established formula.

Travel: Any travel excluding training purposes. Travel must relate to the provision of direct sexual assault services. All reimbursements will be at [current state rates](#) and are subject to change. (Please note: Travel and training for **contracted employees** does **not** go in this section. These expenses should be itemized under “**Contractual**”.)



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Staff Development:

- **SAVS:** To be used for direct staff, supervisors, and administrative staff supporting the SAVS program. Volunteers and non-SAVS funded staff may also attend sexual assault-related training with SAVS funds. Include registration fees and travel expenses in this budget category.
- **SASP:** To be used to train program staff who will provide SASP victim services but may not be used to provide a generalized statewide training. Staff development expenses should represent a small portion of the overall budget. All reimbursements will be at [current state rates](#) and are subject to change.

Equipment: Tangible non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit.

Supplies and Operating Expenses: Includes consumables such as paper, stationery, postage, software and equipment with an acquisition cost of less than \$5,000 per unit. Also includes operating expenses such as rent and utilities. **Show computations for all items.** For example, Rent: \$150/mo. x 12 months = \$1,800.

Consultants/Contractual: All costs associated with individuals or entities providing services through a contractual agreement must be included in this section. Sole source procurements and rates more than \$650 per day or \$81.25 per hour day require additional justification and prior written approval from OCVS. The [consultant](#) and [contractual](#) checklists can be used as a resource for this type of expense.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Indirect: Applicants may include their federally negotiated indirect cost rate in this section of the proposed budget. An applicant who does not currently have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, may elect to use the de minimis indirect cost rate of up to 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). MTDC includes all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subcontract. MTDC excludes rental costs, equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subcontract in excess of \$50,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

Other: This category should be used for eligible expenses not included in any other category such as direct client assistance.; every expense item must be described and justified.

Needs Description (500 words per question)

Describe the problem of need you propose to address by discussing the following:

1. Describe the need for sexual assault services in your proposed service delivery area in Wisconsin.
2. Describe the specific geographic area that will be served.
 - a. Describe the communities in the geographic area, including but not limited to traditionally underserved populations, people with disabilities, people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, persons with limited English proficiency, older adults, Tribal nations, rural areas, and small towns.
3. Describe the reason the organization's current funding is insufficient to provide the proposed sexual assault services.
 - a. Due to insufficient funding, how does the organization prioritize survivor-centered advocacy services?



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Project Narrative (400 words per question)

The Project Narrative should not exceed four pages. Clearly articulate the grant program(s) you are applying for and the direct services that will be provided.

1. Describe how the organization currently provides sexual assault victim services within the proposed service delivery area.
 - a. If the service is provided by a subcontractor and/or subaward, please describe how the service will be provided.
2. How will the proposed services be tailored to the culture of the communities served by the organization? For example, you may describe how holistic healing practices that are traditional and specific to the survivor's culture (e.g., trauma-informed yoga, sweat lodges, spiritual dances, sewing groups, etc.) are currently being integrated into service provision and/or the organization culture.
3. How does the organization invest in relationships with community partners that benefit survivors (e.g., landlords, barbershops, local banks and/or credit unions, auto body repair shops, etc.)?
 - a. How does the organization engage in meaningful collaboration with system partners within the proposed service delivery area?
4. What barriers or obstacles has the organization encountered providing services to survivors?
5. Does the organization's policies and procedures reflect the services provided to sexual assault survivors?
6. Describe the organization's orientation and training plan to retain qualified staff for the proposed grant project.

Federal Funding Questions

The questions below will be completed in WebGrants. Applicants applying for federal SASP funds are **required** to complete this section.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

1. Have you, the grant recipient, had any discrimination findings after a due process hearing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex within the last 5 years?
 - a. If yes, have the discrimination findings been reported to the [Office of Civil Rights](#) for all recipients of Federal funds?
 - b. If not, a copy should be forwarded to:

Wisconsin Department of Justice
Attn: EEOP
17 W. Main Street, PO Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857
2. Have you utilized the [DOJ Administrative Guide](#) located on the WI DOJ website?
3. Would you like someone from WI DOJ to contact you?
4. If this application is \$30,000 or more, did your business or organization (including parent organization, all branches, and all affiliates worldwide) receive in the previous fiscal year (1) 80% or more of your annual gross revenues in US federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements?; AND (2) \$30,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from US federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements?
5. If you answered yes to the previous question, does the public have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives in your business or organization (including parent organization, all branches, and all affiliates worldwide) through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?
 - a. If you answered no to the first part of this question; you must attach to this application the full names and compensation of the top 5 highly compensated individuals of your organization as required by The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

6. State and local government agencies, institutions of higher education, and other nonprofit organizations are subject to federal audit responsibilities pursuant to Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Subpart F, Audit requirement), as follows:
 - a. An organization-wide financial and compliance audit is required if the organization expends \$1,000,000 or more in federal financial assistance during the organization's fiscal year.
 - b. A copy of the audit report, with accompanying management letter, must be submitted in the Federal Audit Clearinghouse, within 9 months of the close of the organization's fiscal year.

Required Attachments

This section in WebGrants asks for required attachments. Multiple attachments can be uploaded, and it is preferred that each attachment's name clearly identify what it is. Please attach the following documents to your application in this section.

Proof of Non-Profit Status: Upload current proof of non-profit status.

Position Description: Upload a position description for each position proposed to be funded by SAVS and/or SASP Grant Funds.

Proof of Certification in SAM.gov: Upload current proof of certification from [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). All applicants must have an active account with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). This includes having a unique entity identifier (UEI). [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration can take several weeks. To register, go to <https://sam.gov/entity-registration>.

Indirect Rate (if Applicable): Upload **either** a copy of the most current Federally Approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), **or** a signed [Certification to Apply 15% de Minimis](#) Indirect Cost Rate.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

How to Submit the Application

Submit Applications Using WebGrants

This is a competitive funding announcement for both the **state** Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) grant and the **federal** Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (VAWA SASP). Applicants should submit one application consisting of a single narrative and up to two separate budgets, one for SAVS and one for SASP. Additional information on submitting this application in WI DOJ WebGrants can be found [here](#). All applications must be submitted through the [WI DOJ WebGrants](#) grants management system. All applications must be submitted on or before the deadline. Authorization to access WebGrants can take several days depending on registration activity. Once your WebGrants access is approved, you may begin your online grant application. If you have any problems using WebGrants, please contact Leah Varnadoe at Leah.Varnadoe@wisdoj.gov during business hours. If you have questions about the content of the application, please submit questions via WebGrants or attend the scheduled office hours.

Application Review and Award Criteria

Review Process

Applications received by the due date will be reviewed as submitted. Unsubmitted applications and any additional information provided outside of the application itself will not be provided to reviewers. Both external reviewers (non-OCVS staff) and internal reviewers (OCVS staff) will review applications. External reviewers will consist of victim services professionals, victim service agencies' board members, and OCVS stakeholders.

Funding Decisions

OCVS will consider all information provided in the application, reviewers' recommendations, an applicant's history of performance with OCVS grants, and any other information OCVS deems necessary to enable fair and equitable funding decisions. An application may be fully funded, partially funded, or denied. In the event that OCVS determines that a proposed project is better suited to be funded under either SAVS or SASP, OCVS will contact the applicant to allow them to provide the required information or to withdraw their application.



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Post-Award Special Conditions/Reporting Requirements

Applicants awarded funds under this announcement are required to provide regular progress reports. The schedules for reports will be included in the grant award materials. When received, please review all grant award special conditions and WebGrants reporting requirements. If applicants are awarded SASP funds, Federal Debarment and Lobbying forms will be sent with award documents and should be signed and submitted with the award documents.

SAVS Claims Disbursements: Fifty percent (50%) of the SAVS award will be disbursed upon submission of signed grant award contracts. The remaining fifty percent (50%) will be disbursed in July 2027 assuming all the subgrant conditions have been met, that SAVS claims are submitted on time, and that the subrecipient is good standing. Any unspent grant funds must be returned at the end of the grant period to WI DOJ.

SAVS and SASP Program Status Reports: Both SAVS and SASP subgrants will report on project activities on a semi-annual basis in WebGrants. Subgrants will also submit a final program report at the end of the grant period for each respective grant program.

SASP Claims Reimbursements: SASP subgrants are paid on a reimbursement basis. Subrecipients may choose to be reimbursed monthly or quarterly by submitting claims in WebGrants.

SAVS Statistical Requirements: As required by Section [165.93\(3\)](#), Wis. Stats, requires all SAVS subrecipients to report statistics from the grant period. The Statistical Requirements report is due at the end of the grant period and completed in WebGrants.

OVW SASP Annual Performance Report: All programs that receive VAWA funds are required by USDJOJ to submit an annual performance report via the IMPACT tool. The IMPACT tool tracks data for projects on the calendar year. VAWA subrecipients will receive detailed information about completing and submitting this data via the online tool. Example questions and instructions can be found on the [Catherine Cutler Institute VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative website](#).



SAVS & VAWA SASP Grant Programs

*Office of Crime Victim Services
State of Wisconsin Department of Justice*

Subrecipient Monitoring: OCVS must assess subrecipient risk posed by applicants before they receive federal funds. Assessment of subrecipient risk determines the level of monitoring performed by OCVS. Further, the levels of risk assigned by OCVS do not preclude a subrecipient from receiving federal funds. In addition to reviewing program complexity and prior adherence to award terms and conditions (if applicable), OCVS will also review financial complexity and the financial capacity of the agency.