



Fostering Collaboration and Building Strong Networks

Who We Are

The mission of the **Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA)** is to encourage and facilitate mutual support, peer enrichment, awareness and collaboration among states and territories administering **STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** Formula Grant Programs. Through this mission, AVA fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment of sharing, learning and growth, ensuring that state administrators are connected, equipped, empowered and supported.

Why Join Us

The power of peer-to-peer support is transformative! It fosters **informal, collaborative learning** in ways that are accessible and engaging. Research shows that peer support boosts individuals' confidence and helps reduce feelings of isolation and stress, particularly in high-demand roles.

Our members consistently share how they benefit from **safe, non-judgmental spaces** where they can openly share challenges, exchange ideas, and celebrate successes together.

"AVA is the saving grace for STOP VAWA administrators of any level. For me it opened doors to new networks, knowledge, support, and guidance on a peer level. Nothing beats it."

– JACKIE HOOVER
Grant Program Manager, Montana Board of Crime Control

What We Do

AVA brings together VAWA grant administrators to **collaborate, share knowledge, and exchange best practices**. We provide access to essential resources that support the effective administration of VAWA grant programs. By fostering a culture of learning and inclusion, we ensure that our members have the tools and support they need to thrive in their roles.

AVA is not a technical assistance provider. Instead, we are uniquely positioned to provide a platform for peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange – centered on shared personal experiences – rather than formalized, expert-led training or highly specific and in-depth guidance or support.

Organizational Core Values

We are guided by our commitment to the following values:

Collaboration

Building effective partnerships to strengthen the VAWA grant programs.

Relationships

Cultivating trust and communication between members, OVW, national TA providers and other key stakeholders.

Encouragement

Motivating one another through shared experiences and challenges.

Teamwork

Working together to achieve common goals and solve complex issues.

Safe Space

Creating an inclusive and welcoming environment where all voices are heard, respected and valued.

Resourcefulness

Maximizing available resources for the benefit of all.

As a member of AVA, you will gain access to the following benefits:

Peer-to-Peer Support

Connect with fellow STOP VAWA administrators to share challenges, solutions and best practices in a collaborative and supportive environment.

Information Gathering

AVA regularly surveys state administrators on various topics to inform the development of pragmatic positions to share with the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW).

Networking Opportunities

AVA conducts its annual peer led meeting and monthly calls to provide a forum for discussing challenges, sharing strategies and collaborating with others administering the STOP formula grant program.

Communications

AVA, through the listserv, website, and other means, provides timely information on the administration of VAWA grants and related resources.

Scholarships

AVA offers limited scholarship opportunities for its members. In difficult economic times, travel and training funds are often the first to be cut from state budgets, leaving administrators unable to access necessary training.

Advocacy

AVA serves as a liaison between its members and (OVW), as well as other key stakeholders, to represent your interests and amplify the collective voice of VAWA administrators across the country.

Members-Only Online Resource Center

Access to a comprehensive collection of tools, templates, and other resources to enhance your STOP VAWA program administration and professional development.

Leadership and Governance

Participation and attendance at AVA Annual Meeting and Luncheon with voting rights, along with the potential to join the Board.

Practical Vision

The **Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA)** envision a future where:

Peer Enrichment and Support

are foundational to our network, cultivating a culture of continuous learning, resource sharing and mutual empowerment among STOP VAWA administrators.

Strategic Partnerships

with key stakeholders are strengthened, ensuring a collaborative and impactful approach to addressing the needs of communities affected by gender-based violence.

Sustainability and Growth

enables AVA to expand its membership, deepen its influence, and enhance its capacity to support VAWA grant administrators, ensuring that members are equipped and empowered to effectively implement and manage grant programs.

