



To encourage and facilitate mutual support, awareness and cooperation among states and territories administering Violence Against Women Act grants.

## 2022 ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Candidate: Laura Quasney

Title/Position of Candidate: Program Specialist I

State Total number of years as a VAWA Administrator/staff: 4.5

Contact information:

State: South Dakota

Agency: Department of Public Safety Victims' Services Program

Phone Number: 605.773.4317

Email address: Laura.Quasney@state.sd.us

**Please answer the questions below to provide information about your qualifications to other VAWA Administrators.**

1. Briefly describe current VAWA responsibilities.

I work as a co-administrator of VAWA funding that is received by the Department of Public Safety. Some of my main responsibilities include reviewing, analyzing, and interpreting state and federal laws, program(s) methods, and department rules and regulations; preparing grant applications in accordance with federal grant solicitations, providing technical assistance in grant administration; and providing work direction and mentoring to program staff and technical assistance to service providers to ensure the program(s) operate within set standards and laws and program services are delivered effectively.

2. Briefly describe other relevant experience or qualifications.

For over two years, I worked for the Division of Child Support handling child support cases that pertained to tribal jurisdictions. This was a high demand caseload that required the ability to understand applicable laws, policies and procedures as it pertained to multiple jurisdictions.

Prior to working in Child Support, I previously worked for a financial organization in the foreclosure field that worked closely with legal counsel on mitigation matters in multiple states. This required being able to review and interpret multiple states' laws and guidelines and being responsible for interacting with numerous departments and external counsel while also handling customer correspondence with tact and professionalism and adhering to confidentiality requirements.

3. Brief statement of why you wish to be on the AVA Board of Directors.

When I came into my position, the previous grant co-administrator had only been in her role a month longer than I had. AVA became an influential resource for connecting with other administrators as I learned more about how federal funding worked and how it pertained to victims' services. This allowed me to ask questions and compare ways of administering the program and find new ways to improve what we were doing. Being a newer administrator allowed me the flexibility to challenge the ways that things had always been done because I had been able to learn and grow based off of the experience and knowledge of other administrators. It is my hope to be able to give back and continue to assist others while continuing to grow victim services in new ways.

Since I have been an administrator, it has been my goal to learn from other similar states and even those that vastly differ from the size and demographic makeup of South Dakota. We often get forgotten about due to our small size and it is my goal to make sure that smaller and rural states still have a voice among the crowd when it comes to emerging issues and needs for victims and survivors. I feel that my attention to detail and work ethic to continually keep learning and growing could be useful and hopefully impactful to AVA and I would love the opportunity to be more involved.

**By checking this box, I declare my intention to be a candidate for the AVA Board of Directors and signify my agency is or will become an active member of AVA.**