



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

**OVW/AVA
Conference Call Agenda
Monday, April 13th, 2020
11:00 – 12:15 EST**

**Conference Dial-In Information (712) 770-5399
Pass Code 585287#**

I. Welcome & Introductions

- **OVW** – Amy Loder, Kevin Sweeney, Omar Muhammed
- **AVA** – Julia, Shataun, Cecilia, MaryEllen, Diana, Gene, Burke, Merry, Barry

II. Appreciation – On behalf of VAWA Administrators, AVA would like to say thank you for your decision to:

- Extend the planning period for Implementation Plan development by one year
- Make match waivers available for 2018, 2019, and 2020 awards
- Extend the annual progress report deadline date from March 30th to May 29th
- Extend the application due dates for Rape Survivor Child Custody Act to July 1, 2020 and August 1, 2020
- Extend all of the FY 2017 and FY 2018 SASP and STOP Formula awards and a small number of open FY 2016 SASP and STOP Formula awards.
- Provide SASP weekly check in meetings
- Provide weekly STOP TA clinics

III. Questions

- Will OVW issue any formal response about navigating the financial assistance available to organizations and how it interacts with grant reimbursements?
 - i. OVW indicated that they will need to get back with us on the answer to this question.
- Will there still be an annual STOP meeting this year for new administrators with 4 or fewer years of experience as a VAWA Administrator?
 - i. Not in 2020. The meeting has been rescheduled for March of 2021 and will still be in Dallas. Any administrator that qualified (4 years or fewer as an administrator) will still qualify next year. OVW will also include any new administrators that come on board between now and March of 2021.

IV. Other Discussion – With respect to complications from COVID-19, and with consideration that many states/territories have varying agency compositions, OVW asked for an update on where states stand on the following issues given that all states/territories are different.

- Do administrators still have the resources and infrastructure to perform their job requirements?
 - Will they still be able to send out an RFP solicitation?
 - Can they still generate awards and conduct an award selection process?
 - Can they still conduct subgrantee monitoring?
 - Do they have the resources to continue to address the needs of subgrantees?
 - If you do not administer VOCA funds, are you continuing to work with VOCA Administrators?
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- **Nebraska** – everyone is working from home, with our offices now set up in our homes with everything that we had access to from work. We have finished our grant review via on-line and teleconference. We have had to switch gears on our IP and have set up focus groups via WebEx instead of in-person meetings. We are just as busy now, if not more so with all of the regular work and COVID-19 response. Sub-grantee monitoring will take place exclusively with desk monitoring for an indefinite period.

We are working more closely with VOCA administrators than ever before.

- **New Mexico** – We are going to be fine. We have been home since the Friday after March 12th, including our VOCA staff. We have programs moving into continuation status. The most challenging piece is helping our grantees gain access to the technology that they need to deliver resources. We will continue to do desk monitoring with video coverage that allows grantees to walk us around their office, etc. We could not do this work without our DV and SA Coalitions. It would be helpful if there was guidance around issues like how we ensure we maintain HIPAA compliance?
 - **Illinois** – Only one staff currently working on VAWA, nobody else at this point as we have been short staffed for quite a while. We have STOP and SASP but we have a separate VOCA team that is fully staffed.
 - **Vermont** – We just hired another person for VOCA, so we are coordinating with them. All shelters are still open.
 - **Minnesota** – We are concerned about our tribal reservations with the closing of casinos and no longer having that revenue source for their community. Several tribal reservation-based shelters are no longer taking in new residents, but they are already operating at full capacity anyway.
- V. Adjourn** – In closing, OVW encouraged AVA to keep them posted on how things are going for administrators and to also share ideas on ways OVW can provide assistance or guidance as administrators work through the challenges associated with COVID-19.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45am EST.