

 To encourage and facilitate mutual support, awareness and cooperation among

 states and territories administering Violence Against Women Act formula grants.

**AVA Connect Conversation
July 30, 2020
1:00PM EST**

**OVERVIEW**AVA conducted the first AVA Connect conversation on July 30, 2020. The intent of our virtual get-togethers is to create informal opportunities to stay socially connected with each other as peers in a meaningful way.  The most important part of AVA Connect is to give you a chance to talk about whatever is most on your mind, ask questions and share ideas.  We want to create that round-table space, where we would have a cup of hotel coffee and muffins and check in with each other.

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**VAWA administrators from five states met for our first conversation. We agreed in advance to attempt to limit the call to one hour. After a brief welcome from AVA Board President, Julia Fuller-Wilson, everyone else on the call introduced themselves and participants were able to discuss what was foremost on the minds of participants.

All of the conversation was very useful and timely. It was more of a sharing of ideas, experiences, and concerns. Some of the topics of discussion included the following:

* Transitioning to working from home due to COVID-19
* Differences in state’s COVID-19 policies/phases
* Awards that went out prior to the pandemic shutting down VAWA SAA’s
* Requesting match waivers
* How to address COVID-19 in the upcoming Implementation Plan (IP)
* Challenges with getting Tribes to apply for funding and getting key players to participate in writing the IP.
* Impact of Supreme Court Ruling in Oklahoma and the precedent It may set for the rest of the states/territories. **(**<https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/in-landmark-decision-supreme-court-rules-that-nearly-half-of-oklahoma-is-indian-land>**)**
* Questions around future VAWA funding and if the source is likely to be from the Crime Victims’ Fund.

We encourage you to participate in one of the upcoming AVA Connect conversations if you think you might find it useful. We still have room for a few more participants on both of the next two conversations scheduled for:

* August 27th at 3:00pm EST
* September 22 at 2:00pm EST

Take care and thank you for all that you do!