**Office of Violence Against Women Rural Grant**

**Rural Advocate Program
Overview and** **Reporting Information**

**Overview**

In 2016 Maine sexual assault support centers received two funding sources to expand services to rural survivor and rural communities - VOCA and OVW Rural. Both advocated for using fund to for services, but also the necessary staff time needed to develop relationships, do outreach, and train community partners.

The outcomes in this document and the OVW Rural grant are intended to guide priorities and be a touchstone for work plans, but not dictate what different communities need or what will be successful in your community.

**Staffing**

Maintain employment of three rural outreach advocates (started at .875FTE, to be increased to 1FTE) and add an additional .5 FTE in each of the three regions. Each agency would have 1.5 FTEs funded by this grant, a 50% increase in staff hours from our FY16 grant.

MECASA and the center directors will meet each spring to determine how to spend any projected hold-over funds from the previous year.

**MECASA Role**

Maintain employment of one .5FTE grant coordinator within MECASA. The coordinator provides ongoing support and technical assistance to the three advocates, which includes monthly peer-resource-sharing calls; an online toolkit; training of trainers; resources such as outreach materials; etc. MECASA will also provide administrative support from their Quality and Compliance Coordinator and their Financial Coordinator; both positions will ensure reporting and financial management of grant funds are compliant.

**Scope of Work**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Measures** | **Annual Goals** |
| Ongoing periodic outreach to a growing group of allied providers. | Number of outreach meetings; Increase in outreach meetings over time.  | 10 outreach meetings |
| Increasing the capacity of providers for underserved/rural communities to respond to sexual assault by providing direct training (using statewide training templates) | Number of trainings delivered; number of trainees. | 115 professionals & community members trained |
| Representing sexual assault services at community-based coalitions, network meetings, etc. | Number of coalition meetings attended or convened.  | 8 meetings convened;6 meetings attended. |
| General awareness and outreach efforts (tabling, postering, etc.). | Number of tabling events; number of awareness materials distributed.  | 8 tabling and/or community events10 outreach material distribution events50K social media reach23K website reach |
| Deliver direct services through core victim services and specialized support groups.  | Number of individuals served; number of hours served; number of support groups held; number of support group participants.  | Advocacy and accompaniment to 55 survivors and their loved ones (100 hours); 7 televideo support group clients; 1 outreach support group.12 survivors access the emergency fund |
| Provide primary prevention programming for parents, educators, and students (using statewide training templates) | Number of parent, educator, and student participants.\* | 40 parents; 10 early childhood educators; 115 student participants. |

**Reporting**

MECASA will coordinate and submit a biannual grant reflecting Rural Advocate and MECASA work.

Reporting periods are January 1 – June 30 and July 1 – December 31.

MECASA will be relying on a number of measures to track and report the success of this initiative. Most of those are items that are already being tracked in the statewide EmpowerDB database. In some cases, simple changes can be made to the database to ensure that we are capturing all of the information.

Every January and July, MECASA staff will request some information from centers to about the previous 6 moths. We will ask you to answer some questions, give info not reflected in EmpowerDB, and supplement/clarify Empower data.

**Reporting form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Total** |
| FTE hours per advocate |  |
| FTE hours spent on prevention |  |
| Outreach material distribution **locations** |  |
| Number of “unsolicited outreach” calls |  |
| Number of calls that resulted in services |  |
| Number of temporary PFA/Hs filed\*\* |  |
| Number of temporary PFA/Hs granted\*\* |  |
| Number of final PFA/Hs filed\*\* |  |
| Number of final PFA/Hs granted\*\* |  |
| Facebook reach |  |
| Unique website visits |  |

\*PFA/H final docket cold calls

\*\*While providing support and/or accompaniment

1. What was the effectiveness of professional training you have provided? (Effectiveness might include a change in policy or practice following your training, increased referrals from a particular agency, improved system response to survivors, etc).
2. Provide any additional information you would like to share about your training activities.
3. Provide any additional information you would like to share about your SARTs/multidisciplinary teams.
4. If this funding was used to develop any new policies or protocols – what has been the effectiveness of that?
5. Provide any additional information you would like to share about policy or protocol development.
6. Comment on your successes and challenges and provide any additional explanation you’d like about what you have or have not accomplished relative to your goals and objectives (original goals and objectives attached).
7. What do you see as the most significant areas of remaining need, with regard to improving services to victims/survivors of sexual assault?
8. Any additional information you’d like the funders to know about your work.

**Reporting Definitions & Clarifications**

When inputting your training, outreach, and education actives in EmpowerDB, consider these definitions (clarified for us by OVW grant reviewers at Muskie).

**Outreach**

Introduction to sexual assault support center advocate and services, very basic introduction to sexual violence, introduce self and how to contact us. *Ex: presentation to Rotary Clubs, food pantry staff, meet and greets at hospital, joining a service providers staff meeting*

**Coalition Building**

Represent sexual assault support center at ongoing meetings, whether giving updates or not. *Ex: Knox county providers meeting, BCC*

**Training**

When providing training for people who work with survivors in a **professional** capacity, where they have a **formal role** in the system responding to sexual violence. These trainings **build skills** for these professionals to do their job. *Ex: law enforcement, SAFEs, District Attorney, medical providers, mental health providers, first responders, correctional officers, school-based professionals.*

**Community Education**

Sexual Violence is a community issue and impacts survivors; how can participants be a part of informal response and connect someone to services. *Ex: presentation to social work students, hairdressers*

Notes: Training educators would fall under training professionals if it is expanding skills regarding how to respond to a disclosure in a formal capacity. Training educators would fall under primary prevention if the content was related to risk reduction, consent and healthy sexuality.

* When tracking trainings & community ed in Empower, always describe your audience even if you also picked from the dropdown list. For example, if in the dropdown list you choose “Community”, but describe the audience further in the space provided, perhaps it’s ‘parents’ or ‘Belfast community members’. Or if you choose “Providers (Service Providers)” include “substance abuse counselors” or “WIC staff” in the space below.
* Same with topic: always include what you trained about, even if it is covered by the dropdown list.