

SASP Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. May SASP Formula Program funds be used to address domestic violence?

RESPONSE: No. Funds must be used to provide services to victims of sexual assault. In cases when victims of domestic violence disclose a history of sexual assault, including by a current or former intimate partner, services may be provided with SASP funding to the extent that the victim expresses a need for services related to the sexual assault. For example, SASP funds could support accompaniment of victims to sexual assault forensic medical exams, but could not be used to support a general domestic violence-related crisis shelter.

2. Can SASP funds be used to develop policies and protocols?

RESPONSE: The development of policies and protocols is fine as long as it is only a small aspect of the grantee's overall direct service project. Particularly if revising policies and protocols is an integral part of a project's effort to improve the delivery of direct intervention services to survivors of sexual violence.

3. Can Grantee "coordinate" and "facilitate" activities for Sexual Assault Awareness Month if the outcome is to increase awareness of a Grantee's sexual; assault services and resources?

RESPONSE: Yes, this would be considered community outreach.

4. Do the VAWA 2013 provisions for developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams; programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings; and developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming pertain to SASP?

RESPONSE: Prevention and SART development remain out of scope for SASP. Providing services to victims of sexual assault within detention is allowable under SASP because it is focused on direct service provision.

5. May SASP funds be used for volunteer-related activities?

RESPONSE: Yes, as long as the volunteers provide direct services for sexual assault victims. Examples would include training volunteers to provide crisis intervention and supervision of those volunteers.

6. May SASP funds be used for Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)?

RESPONSE: No. However, if an advocate position is funded by a SASP grant, the advocate's time in attending SART meetings may be covered as part of the advocacy he or she provides. In the same vein, the advocate's time in attending MDT or other similar meetings may be covered as part of the advocacy he or she provides.

7. May SASP funds support a hotline?

RESPONSE: Yes, to the extent that the hotline is for sexual assault victims. If the hotline covers a broader array of issues, the costs of the hotline should be pro-rated according to the percentage of calls that are for sexual assault. Moreover, for a multi-issue hotline to receive SASP funds, the employees or volunteers who staff the hotline would need to have sexual assault-specific training.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

8. Is there a lower age limit in serving child victims?

RESPONSE: No, there is no age restriction for providing services to child victims. SASP funds can be used to serve any primary or secondary victim (family or household member of a victim or collaterally affected by the victimization) of sexual assault regardless of age. Services rendered to child victims do not have to be provided in connection with serving an adult parent or guardian.

9. May SASP funds be used for a program that just focuses on a particular age? For example, may SASP funds be used to hire a children's advocate or a youth advocate?

RESPONSE: The grantee organization itself must provide services to sexual assault victims of all ages, however, the SASP-funded program may focus on a particular age group, such as children, youth, or elders.

10. Is there a limitation on the types of sexual assault that SASP funds may be used to address?

RESPONSE: No. SASP funds may be used to address intimate partner, stranger and non-stranger sexual assault, as well as adult, adolescent, and child sexual violence, regardless of when the assault occurred. Both male and female victims may be served.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

11. Can Board members participate in SASP-funded training?

RESPONSE: Since Board members do not provide direct intervention services SASP funds cannot be used to train Board members, however, Board members can attend training provided to staff and volunteers as long as no SASP funds are expended to support their attendance.

12. Can advocates provide education and awareness presentations on what constitutes sexual assault and what options are available to victims in a school assembly or classroom setting? Would it make a difference if the grantee has plans to offer regularly scheduled follow-up services such as drop-in advocacy, resource referral time, and after-school support groups?

RESPONSE: This is a very grey area and often depends on the specific activities the grantee will engage in. If the organization goes into the school to provide brief information about what sexual violence is and goes on to provide information on available services and how to access them, this would be considered outreach. If the grantee has plans on providing advocacy, resource referrals, etc. at the school, there is a good argument that the presentation efforts are outreach based. What would not be allowed are presentations with a primary focus on prevention (e.g. bystander

intervention, healthy relationships, etc.) or education that would take the majority of the allotted presentation time, leaving minimal time for explaining services and how to access these services.

13. Are education services allowed if provided through an MOU or a subcontract?

RESPONSE: Education services funded by SASP funds are limited to outreach activities to inform persons about the availability of services provided by a specific program. This narrow definition of education services applies to all activities supported with SASP funds, regardless if offered by paid staff or volunteers, subcontractors or through a MOU. See clarification on education and awareness presentation in Question 4 and the exception cited in Question 6 for education offered in a support group setting.

14. May SASP funds be used for advocate/staff training?

RESPONSE: SASP funds may be used to train program staff (volunteer or employee) who will provide specific grant-funded victim services, but may not be used to provide a generalized statewide training. For example, funds may be used to support skill-building training on providing sexual assault advocacy services or training on a particular therapeutic technique to assist SASP-funded counselors or therapists in providing more effective therapy. The amount of funds spent on training should represent only a small portion of the overall grant.

15. Can SASP funds be used to develop training curricula?

RESPONSE: No.

16. Can SASP funds be used to train SANE nurses (salary paid by hospital) or support staff to organize community SART training?

RESPONSE: No, SASP funds can only be used to train advocates (paid and volunteer) that deliver grant-funded services; general professional training at the community level, including for SANEs and SARTs, is not allowable under SASP.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

17. Can SASP pay for damages caused by an offender to a current residence or to a past home in order for the survivor to get accepted into a new home?

RESPONSE: No, renovations are not covered by VAWA, so damages to a home are generally unallowable. Renovations related to painting or replacing carpet are not allowable, however, something more along the lines of cleaning (e.g., carpet, walls), might be allowable and would be best considered on a case-by-case basis.

18. Can SASP pay for an application fee to help a sexual assault survivor apply for an apartment?

RESPONSE: Yes, assisting survivors with applications for housing is allowable.

19. Can SASP pay for an attorney or paralegal to provide legal representation to sexual assault survivors?

RESPONSE: No, SASP funds cannot be used to pay for legal representation by a paralegal or an attorney. Legal advocacy that focuses on supporting a survivor through a legal process, explaining the legal process, and being present throughout the process is allowable because a legal advocate does not provide legal advice.

20. Are emergency financial supports directly related to an incident of sexual assault allowable (first month's rent, groceries, clothing, transportation, etc.) and financial supports related to healing allowable (transportation to support groups, child care to attend support groups, etc.)? What ongoing financial supports are allowable, if any?

RESPONSE: Generally, emergency support for needs directly related to an incident of sexual assault is allowed and financial support related to healing is also allowed. Assistance with transportation costs to attend therapy or a support group or court, would all be allowable. There could be a situation where assistance with an electric bill or a month's rent would be allowed – maybe the survivor isn't able to work as much because of the assault or has to take unpaid leave from work to attend criminal or civil proceedings. Ongoing financial supports are best considered on a case-by-case basis.

SUPPORT GROUPS & COUNSELING

21. Is the provision of healthy sex education/relationships within the auspices of support groups an allowable SASP activity?

RESPONSE: Yes, that type of information is allowed because it is being used as a method of direct services to survivors. Though technically educational in nature, it does not fall under what OVW means as unallowable. For the purposes of SASP, by education, OVW means providing educational presentations and/or trainings to general audiences (i.e. community organizations, high school students, etc.). It does not pertain to support group services to victims.

22. Is providing subcontracted counseling services to survivors of child abuse allowed under SASP?

RESPONSE: Yes, counseling services is an allowable SASP activity and services may be provided to child victims of sexual assault.

23. How long is "short-term counseling?"

RESPONSE: Up to one year.

24. Can support groups be offered to high school students identified as *at risk of sexual assault* based on risky behavior?

RESPONSE: No, eligible beneficiaries of SASP funding must be "victims of sexual assault" and "family and household members of such victims" and "those collaterally affected by the victimization."

25. May SASP Formula Program funds be used for women's only or men's only support groups?

RESPONSE: A grantee may provide women's only and men's only support groups, but only if it is necessary to the essential operation of the program that these support groups be segregated by sex. Even if a grantee can establish that sex-specific support groups are necessary to the essential operation of the program, the recipient is still required to provide "comparable services" to victims

who cannot be served by the sex-specific support groups. For more information about a recipient's option to provide services in a sex-segregated or sex-specific manner and its obligation to provide comparable services, please see the FAQs on the Nondiscrimination Grant Condition in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/faqs-ngc-vawa.pdf>.

BUDGET

26. Can SASP funds be used towards items such as rent, office supplies, computer equipment, or office furniture?

RESPONSE: Yes, if the grantee is also funding a staff or contract position to provide direct services. The office space and other office items (e.g., computer, phone, desk, etc.) associated with this position may be charged to the grant.