

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Grant Name: Culturally Specific Sexual Assault Services Grant Program
(Culturally Specific SAS)

Applications Due Date/Time:

Applications are due by **12:00pm EST** on **January 5, 2026**

Applications must be submitted via email to: VAWAReports@ct.gov

Application Overview Sessions

These sessions will review the NOFO and questions related to application process and requirements. Sessions are scheduled for:

December 8, 2025 @ 2:00 – 3:30pm EST | December 11, 2025 @ 3:30 – 5pm EST and December 17, 2025 @ 4:30 – 6pm EST. Click here to register: <https://forms.gle/gaFG8rdTSSaC7f8W6>

Contact Information

Questions or assistance needed with this NOFO please contact Emily Burnett at Emily.Burnett@ct.gov.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity provides information about the Culturally Specific Sexual Assault Services Grant Program (Culturally Specific SAS). The Culturally Specific SAS program is funded through the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division to support culturally specific organizations in providing culturally specific services for survivors of sexual assault. Organizations applying for these funds must provide culturally specific programming, crisis intervention, and healing for survivors of sexual assault from culturally specific communities to ensure all victims have access to services.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Background and information on this grant program and who is providing the funding)

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. The SASP Formula Grant Program directs grant dollars to each state and territory to support rape crisis centers and other nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations that provide services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault. Funds provided through SASP are designed to supplement other funding sources directed at addressing sexual assault within the state. For more information on the Sexual Assault Services Program, please visit the following web page on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) website: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>

The Office of Policy and Management serves as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the distribution of SASP grant funds in Connecticut. The Sexual Assault Services Program was initiated in Connecticut in 2009 based on funding received annually from the U.S. DOJ Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). DOJ/OVW awards these funds to each state and territory across the country based on a formula. As the State Administering Agency, OPM receives funding and is responsible for appropriately distributing the funds throughout the state. In accordance with the Notice of Funding Opportunity and special conditions, funds must go towards supporting sexual assault services.

The Culturally Specific Sexual Assault Services Grant Program (Culturally Specific SAS) provides funding to support culturally specific organizations based in Connecticut that focus primarily on culturally specific communities and have experience addressing sexual assault or partner with an organization having such expertise. The goal of the Culturally Specific SAS Program is to establish, maintain, and expand culturally specific services that respond to the needs of survivors of sexual assault from culturally specific communities.

- Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a) (8-9), “culturally specific services” means community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities.
- Although the proposed project’s activities should be tailored to meet the needs of the applicant’s culturally specific community, grant-funded services **must** be made available to all eligible victims, regardless of whether eligible victims are members of a culturally specific community.
- All services provided using these grant funds must be free of charge.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THIS GRANT PROGRAM

(Eligible Applicants)

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12511(a)(1), all applicants must meet the following core criteria:

1. Be an organization that is by and for one or more culturally specific community; the primary purpose of the organization as a whole is to provide services to one or more culturally specific community.
 - a. Eligible applicants include private nonprofit organizations in Connecticut for which the primary purpose of the organization is to provide culturally specific services to one of more of the following communities: “American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Blacks, or Hispanics” (34 U.S.C. § 12251 (c) & 12291(a)(8) and 42 U.S.C. § 300u-6 (g)).
2. Have a demonstrated history of developing and/or implementing culturally specific services for non-intimate partner survivors of sexual assault; and/or be familiar with/have worked with survivors of sexual assault.
3. Be a community-based, nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal organization consistent with 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30) and must be a registered entity in Connecticut with the Department of Consumer Protection and the Secretary of State.
4. Articulate a commitment and willingness to addressing sexual assault through culturally relevant services, responses, and healing support.

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

(Award Amounts and Grant Program Timeline)

Anticipated Grant Program Period: March 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Anticipated Number of Awards: 2 - 4

Range of Funds Awarded to Each Project: \$50,000 – 100,000 for grant period

Anticipated Award Notification: February 2026

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES THIS GRANT PROGRAM CAN FUND

(Eligible Program Activities)

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12511(b)(1) funds provided under this grant program must be used to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of rape crisis centers and other nongovernmental or Tribal programs and projects to assist individuals who have been victimized by sexual assault, without regard to the age of the individual. Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30), the term "rape crisis center" means a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal organization, or governmental entity in a state other than a territory that provides intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault without regard to their age. In the case of a governmental entity, the entity may not be part of the criminal justice system (such as a law enforcement agency) and must be able to offer a comparable level of confidentiality as a nonprofit entity that provides similar victim services.

Funds must be used to establish, maintain, or expand culturally specific intervention and related assistance to survivors of sexual assault. Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12511(b)(2)(C), such services can include, but are not limited to:

- Crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist survivors of sexual assault;
- Culturally specific services and support mechanisms that provide culturally relevant intervention and responses incorporating cultural ways of healing and addressing cultural dynamics that impact survivors;
- Healing support (such as art therapy, somatic responses, etc.) that incorporate culturally relevant healing practices;
- Peer-support - including but not limited to, activities that provide opportunities for survivors to meet other survivors, share experiences, and provide self-help, information, and emotional support (such as support groups, parent support, youth support, cultural art groups, gardening groups);
- Activities that meet emergent and basic support needs for survivors by providing access to safe housing, rental assistance, temporary housing, utilities assistance, food, clothing, or transportation assistance;
- Accompaniment and advocacy related to the sexual assault through medical/health, criminal justice (police and court proceedings), educational and social support systems;
- Information and referral to assist the survivor of sexual assault, their dependents and other family or household members; and
- Development and distribution of materials, including outreach activities to raise awareness in culturally specific community of the availability of the services described above.

THIS GRANT PROGRAM DOES NOT FUND THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

(Unallowable Activities)

The following activities are unallowable and cannot be funded with these grant funds; and therefore, should not be included in the application proposed budget:

- Direct payment to survivors;
- Construction costs;
- Renovation costs;
- Fundraising Costs; and
- Lobbying Activities

Additionally, the activities listed below are out of scope:

1. Research projects. Funds under this program may not be used to conduct research, defined by 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d) as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. However, assessments conducted for internal improvement purposes only may be allowable.
2. Promoting or facilitating the violation of federal immigration law.
3. Inculcating or promoting gender ideology as defined in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.
4. Promoting or facilitating discriminatory programs or ideology, including illegal DEI and “diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility” programs that do not advance the policy of equal dignity and respect, as described in Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity. This prohibition is not intended to interfere with any of OVW’s statutory obligations, such as funding for HBCUs, culturally specific services, and disability programs.
5. Activities that frame domestic violence or sexual assault as systemic social justice issues rather than criminal offenses (e.g., prioritizing criminal justice reform or social justice theories over victim safety and offender accountability).
6. Generic community engagement or economic development without a clear link to violence prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
7. Programs that discourage collaboration with law enforcement or oppose or limit the role of police, prosecutors, or immigration enforcement in addressing violence against women.
8. Awareness campaigns or media that do not lead to tangible improvements in prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
9. Initiatives that prioritize illegal aliens over U.S. citizens and legal residents in receiving victim services and support.

10. Excessive funding for consulting fees, training, administrative costs, or other expenses not related to measurable violence prevention, victim support, and offender accountability.
11. Any activity or program that unlawfully violates an Executive Order.
12. Activities addressing human trafficking unrelated to sexual assault.
13. Activities addressing Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) unrelated to sexual assault.
14. Activities focused on prevention efforts and education (e.g., bystander intervention, social norms campaigns, presentations on healthy relationships, etc.).
14. Criminal justice-related projects, including funding for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and forensic interviews.
15. Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examiner programs.
16. Sexual Assault Response Team coordination.
17. Providing training to allied professions and the community (e.g., law enforcement, child protection services, prosecution, other community-based organizations, etc.).
18. Domestic violence services unrelated to sexual violence.
19. Legal services.

THE PROCESS TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT PROGRAM

Dates are subject to change.

Application Overview Sessions

December 8, 2025 @ 2:00 – 3:30pm EST | December 11, 2025 @ 3:30 - 5pm EST and December 17, 2025 @ 4:30 – 6pm EST

These virtual sessions will review this NOFO and answer any questions related to application process and requirements. Sessions are not mandatory but interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. You only need to attend one session. To register click here:

<https://forms.gle/gaFG8rdTSSaC7f8W6>

Application Q & A Office Hour

December 30, 2025 @ 11:00am – 12:30pm EST. This is an open session to answer questions. To register click here: <https://forms.gle/LsnMHNzaXzjbebodA>

Applications are due no later than 12:00pm EST on January 5, 2026

- **Applicant Interviews | Anticipated January 8 – 12, 2026**
- **Anticipated Award Notification | February 2026**
- **Anticipated Grant Period | March 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026**

Applicant Interview

All eligible applicants will be required as part of the application process to participate in a virtual interview to share more information about their proposal. After the initial eligibility review, applicants will be contacted to schedule interviews. The interview will be approximately 30 minutes long and questions will be sent to applicants before the interview.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. While you don't need the UEI number at the time of application, you must apply for a UEI during the process or shortly after submitting your grant proposal. This is because, if selected for funding, you will need to obtain a UEI number before receiving funds. To receive a UEI, you must register on SAM.gov. Click here to access the SAM Entity Registration page: <https://sam.gov/entity-registration>. The SAM Entity Registration page also includes a video that walks you through the registration process. If you need help, you can call 866-606- 8220 or live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#). Submitting a registration and getting a Unique Entity ID are FREE. Please do not work with any agencies that charge for this process.

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN GRANT APPLICATION

All applications should be submitted using the following format:

- Font size 12 or larger
- Line spaced 1.5 or larger
- No more than 15 pages total for complete application
- Include applicant organization name, program/project title and page number as a header or footer throughout the document.

The complete application must include responses to all of the sections listed below.

1. Section A: OPM Cover Sheet (complete form on pg. 14 + send with your application)
2. Section B: Program Abstract
3. Section C: Program Narrative
4. Section D: Program Timeline
5. Section E: Program Budget (click on link: <https://tinyurl.com/ysu974hv> complete form + send with your application)

Section A | PROGRAM ABSTRACT – 5pts

This section should include the following information on the cover page:

- Organization Name
- Organization Address
- Executive Director or Authorized Representative (name + contact information)
- Contact person for the application (name, title, contact information)
- Nonprofit employer identification number (EIN) or attach evidence of registration status in Connecticut
- Proposed Project/Program Name or Title
- Brief Project Summary - please provide a 1-2 sentence summary of the project for which you are requesting funding
- Amount of funding requested
- Has your organization or someone within your organization received/managed state or federal funding previously? Yes or No. Please note this question is for training purposes only and will not disqualify any applicant.

Section B | PROGRAM NARRATIVE – 50pts

Please provide responses to the narrative questions below. Be sure to answer each question completely.

B1. ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

- Provide a description of your organization including its mission and primary purpose
- Describe the geographic area where the proposed program will be implemented and describe the population to be served (i.e. youths, older adults, etc.)
- Tell us what makes your organization a culturally specific organization developed by and for your culturally specific community.

B2. ABOUT YOUR PROPOSED PROGRAM

Which culturally specific community will you be providing services to and where are they located? Briefly describe the culturally specific community and which part of the state you will be providing services.

Why do you need these funds to address sexual assault in your culturally specific community? Briefly describe the needs, issues, or challenges related to sexual assault in the culturally specific community you serve. What's happening that you would like to address?

How do you propose to use the grant funds? What activities do you plan to implement/carry out with this grant to address the issues mentioned above? Please be as descriptive as possible about your project plan so there is a clear idea of what you are proposing - including key activities and deliverables.

**Note: Activities proposed should be culturally specific and relevant to the culturally specific community you will be serving and survivors of sexual assault.*

B3. IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT

Please describe your staff capacity and explain why they are in a position to make the proposed program addressing sexual assault a success. Describe the background and relevant experience of the key staff that will be working on this proposed program.

Will you be working with a partner organization? Will you be hiring a consultant to do significant work on the project? Please provide a list of any organization that will be assisting in the project. Describe the roles and responsibilities of each project partner. If contracting or consulting with another party, please include details on their role in the project.

Section C | PROGRAM TIMELINE – 5pts

Provide a timeline/plan of when your organization will implement (be conducting) the program activities you proposed in the sections above. When will the activities happen (which month)? Not every activity needs to be listed; just major activities to conduct the program and meet the goals of your proposed grant project.

Section D | PROGRAM BUDGET & NARRATIVE – 10pts

How much funds is your organization requesting to implement your program proposal? How does your organization propose to utilize/spend the funding requested? Below is an example of the categories you may request for funding and a chart to help in determining total costs. This chart is for your purposes. **Please click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ysu974hv> to complete budget form and send with your application.**

Description	Total Cost
Personnel Portion of salary for staff members that will be working to oversee, coordinate or implement grant program activities) by position title, the % time (level of effort) to be dedicated solely to this program, and the proposed salary.	\$
Fringe Benefits ex: health, retirement, wellness benefits	\$
Staff Travel ex: mileage costs to provide services) - training and related travel for training needed (e.g. conference registration, mileage or airfare, lodging, meals, etc.	\$
Victim /Survivor Assistance ex: support for the direct needs of people being served such as rent, emergency food, bus/rideshare fare, immediate needs	\$
Supplies ex: computers, phones, pens, paper, software, printers, file cabinets, curriculum for programming, materials for programming (ex. art supplies, equipment/supplies for cultural activities, books for support groups, etc.).	\$
Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the recipient or subrecipient for financial statement purposes, or \$10,000.	\$

Consultants/Contracts ex: different people/agencies you will contract with and what service they will provide the organization/what types of services might be contracted to support the victims you are serving (legal services, therapists, cultural artist). The current maximum consultant rate is \$650 per day or \$81.25 per hour.	\$
Facilities/Operations ex: rent for the space to provide services, utilities, phone service, etc.	\$
Other Costs List any other expenses that you think will be needed to implement our program activities that isn't listed somewhere else. Including Victim /Survivor Assistance ex: support for the direct needs of people being served such as rent, emergency food, bus/rideshare fare, immediate needs	\$
Total Amount of Grant Funds Requested	\$

CHECKLIST FOR YOUR GRANT APPLICATION

Please make sure you have a complete grant application package which includes responses to all the sections listed below.

- ☐ Section A: OPM Cover Sheet (complete form on pg. 14 + send with your application)
- ☐ Section B: Program Abstract
- ☐ Section C: Program Narrative
- ☐ Section D: Program Timeline
- ☐ Section E: Program Budget (click on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ysu974hv> complete form + send with your application)

HOW TO SEND YOUR GRANT APPLICATION

(Application Submission Instructions)

Please send your Grant Application package including (abstract/cover letter, program narrative and budget excel form) via email to: VAWAReporting@ct.gov

Applications are due no later than 12:00pm EST on January 5, 2026

HOW YOUR GRANT APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED

Applications will be evaluated through a review process based on the evaluation criteria below:

Evaluation Criteria	Total Points/Percentage of Score
Program Abstract	5 points (5%)
Program Narrative	50 points (50%)
Program Timeline	5 points (5%)
Program Budget	10 points (10%)
Interview	30 points (30%)
Total	100 points (100%)

GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(Expectations for organizations that receive a grant award)

If your organization receives a grant, you will be expected to:

1. Create a process to track the work you are doing – the progress of your project; what impact having on sexual assault and survivors in your community; and create a system to track how you are spending the money (grant funds) you have received (including a grant-specific general ledger, timesheets, receipts, etc.)
2. Each quarter (4x a year) send program progress reports and financial reports with the information above to OPM.
3. Participate in any technical assistance or training opportunities provided for you by OPM. Technical assistance and training is available to help you create systems to track your programmatic and financial responsibilities for a grant award.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Statutory Authority

The Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division makes grant awards under this program in accordance with 34 U.S.C. § 12511, the Office on Violence Against Women SASP Formula Grant and in accordance with the grant Notice of Funding Opportunity and the grant application.

Federal grant awards have conditions that govern the use of funds under that grant award. OPM CJPPD attaches all Federal General and Special conditions to each grant award. If another copy of the conditions is needed, please reach out to OPM CJPPD for a copy of the special conditions relevant to a specific award.

WHO TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS

Any questions please contact Emily Burnett at Emily.Burnett@ct.gov.

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

450 Capitol Avenue-MS#52CPD

Hartford, CT 06106-1308

GRANT APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Applicant Information
Applicant Name:
Applicant Address:
Project Title:
Federal Funding:
Proposed Period of Award:

Contact Information	
Project Director Contact Information	Financial Officer Contact Information <i>Responsible for Management and reporting of grant Expenditures</i>
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Phone:	Phone:
E-mail:	E-mail:

Designated Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) Signatory Name & Title:

Project Summary	
Summary Project Description:	
Federal Awarded Amount:	
Project Awarded Amount:	
Federal Employer Identification Number:	
Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number:	
Applicant Fiscal Year End:	Date of Last Audit:
Dates Covered by Last Audit:	Date of Next Audit:
Dates to be Covered by Next Audit:	
I, THE UNDERSIGNED, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE NAMED APPLICANT, DO HEREWITH APPLY FOR THIS SUBGRANT, ATTEST THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE STATEMENTS MADE HEREIN ARE TRUE, AND AGREE TO THE APPLICABLE FEDERAL, INTERAGENCY/GENERAL, AND SPECIAL GRANT CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THIS GRANT APPLICATION FORM.	
SIGNATURE:	DATE: