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Department of
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE



Alaska's Council on
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CDVSA Awards new Community Grant Funding to Enhance Services for Victims of Crime

New funding to support services to crime victims in three categories: Child Advocacy Centers, Legal Advocacy Services and Mental Health Services for youth victims/witnesses of crime

February 5, 2020 JUNEAU, Alaska – The Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault recently awarded new community grant funds to seventeen (17) Alaska agencies to provide enhanced services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and underserved victims of other violent crimes. The funding awards are for 29-months beginning February 1 equaling \$7.5 million in community grants over the life of the awards.

The **Enhanced Services for Victims of Crime** grant program is a new funding opportunity focused on areas of service not specifically funded by CDVSA in the past but identified as critical needs across Alaska. All funding comes from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) federal formula grant that CDVSA receives each year. Funding categories for the Enhanced Services grant program are child advocacy centers, legal advocacy services, and mental health services for children and youth who are victims or witness to violent interpersonal crimes.

“We are excited to offer funding for these three service areas that have received limited funding or been unfunded by CDVSA in the past,” said CDVSA Executive Director L. Diane Casto. “Funding to provide healing services to children and youth impacted by interpersonal violence has been a CDVSA goal for several years. Additionally, increased funding for legal advocacy services to victims of domestic and sexual violence is a critical service that most victims of crime need and often do not have access to—these awards will improve services in these critical areas across Alaska.”

Funds are being awarded to the following agencies/communities—please note that many of the funded agencies provide services to a much larger service area than indicated by the agency location:

Child Advocacy Centers:

- Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Dillingham
- Catholic Community Service S.A.F.E., Juneau
- Copper River Basin CAC, Gakona

- Maniilaq Family Crisis Center, Kotzebue
- Providence Alaska Cares, Anchorage
- Resource Center for Parents and Children, Stevie’s Place, Fairbanks
- The Children’s Place, Wasilla
- Tundra Women’s Coalition, Bethel

Legal Advocacy Services:

- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, statewide
- Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Juneau
- Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living, Fairbanks

Mental Health Services for children and youth impacted by violence:

- Anchorage Community Mental Health Service, Anchorage
- The LeeShore Center, Kenai
- Standing Together Against Rape, Anchorage/statewide
- Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks
- Volunteers of America, Anchorage/statewide
- Women in Safe Homes, Ketchikan

“On behalf of the Council board, I would like to thank all the applicants for their time and effort to apply for these funds,” said Interim Board Chair Teresa Lowe. “Congratulations to the successful recipients who are receiving a portion of these funds. As we know, there are many critical need service areas that will be expanded and enhanced with these grant awards. We look forward to following the activities and outcomes of each grantee as they provide these valuable and important services to people across the state of Alaska.”

The announcement of these grant awards comes during the February start of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month here in Alaska, as well as nationally. A Proclamation by Governor Mike Dunleavy was issue yesterday and is available at:

<https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2020/02/04/teen-dating-violence-awareness-and-prevention-month-2/>

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's mission is to provide safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and underserved victims of other crime. The Council is responsible for providing Alaska with a system of statewide crisis intervention, advocacy and support services for all Alaskan’s impacted by interpersonal violence. Other areas of focus are services to promote perpetrator accountability, and community-based prevention programming.

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