



2018 ANNUAL REPORT  
building momentum. ideas into action.



Alaska's Council on  
Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault

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## council board members 2018

Rachel Gernat, Chair, Public Member

Michelle Dewitt, Vice Chair, Public Member

Linda Stanford, Public Member

Jody Potts, Public Member

Karen Cann, Department of Corrections

Sana Efird, Department of Education and Early Development

Karen Forrest, Department of Health and Social Services

John Skidmore, Department of Law

Allison Hanzawa, Department of Public Safety

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## cdvsa staff 2018

L. Diane Casto, Executive Director

MaryBeth Gagnon, Program Coordinator II

Kelly Gohl, Administrative Officer I

Rocket Parish, Research Analyst II

Ann Rausch, Program Coordinator II

Meggie Stogner, Program Coordinator I

Angela Wells, Administrative Assistant II

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## our vision

Alaska, freed from  
domestic and  
sexual violence.



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## from our new board chair

Michelle Dewitt

It is with great pride that in FY2018, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) was successful in advancing partnerships, funding new victim service programs for the first time in many years, and achieving compliance with our federal funding partners' requirements.

We appreciate the leadership of our Executive Director, L. Diane Casto, and the entire CDVSA team. We wish to express appreciation for outgoing Council member Rachel Gernat and her years of leadership as a public member and chair of CDVSA.

You will see in the following pages that much was accomplished this past year, yet there is still much to do in FY19. We are excited to revise, update, and enhance the CDVSA strategic plan, continuing to move CDVSA into new and important directions. We look forward to harnessing the new ideas and energy of the Dunleavy Administration's designees to the Council Board in the upcoming year.

Readers, it will take each one of us to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. We ask you to find ways to join us in our work to respond to victims, create safety, hold perpetrators accountable for and ultimately prevent violence and abuse in our great state.

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## from our executive director

L. Diane Casto



State fiscal year 2018: 12 months, 365 days...sounds like a lot of time, but how quickly it passed!

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) maximized every available day to keep our commitment to Alaska to plan, fund, and coordinate services for victims, survivors, and those impacted by domestic and sexual violence across the state.

While FY17 was a year of change, FY18 was a year of forward movement, progress, and implementing the change that started in FY17. Reinforcing our agency's foundation, enhancing and expanding our activities, and creating space for new ideas, partnerships, and critical thinking encompassed everything we accomplished in FY18. We reimagined our potential and our vision for what CDVSA can be in the future.

We are pleased to present this annual report as a brief recap of how we focused our time, what we accomplished, and CDVSA's path forward in state fiscal year 2019. Everything we do remains focused on our vision: Alaska, freed from domestic and sexual violence.

## highlights

Throughout the State Fiscal Year 2018, CDVSA made significant accomplishments. While it is impossible to recap them all, the list below features highlights that helped stabilize and grow the Council in the past year, laying a strong foundation for the next year.

### FY18 State Budget signed on June 30, 2017

On July 1, CDVSA's approved budget for FY18 was \$17,972,300. In October, the Legislature approved an increase in federal spending authority of \$2,004,750, bringing our FY18 approved budget to \$19,977,050, an increase of 18% from FY17. In addition to increased federal spending authority, CDVSA received an additional \$1.0 million for primary prevention of DV/SA.

### Two Prevention Request for Proposals Released

- 1) Community Readiness and Capacity Building; and
- 2) Community-Based Primary Prevention Programs.

Following recommendations from two Proposal Evaluation Committees, 12 community grant awards were made:

- Community Readiness and Capacity Building grants awarded to Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Kenai, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Valdez;
- Community-Based Primary Prevention Program grants awarded to Cordova, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, and Sitka.

### Workforce Enhancement Funding

In October 2017, CDVSA requested

an increase in federal funds spending authority to provide increased funding for current victim services programs for the expressed purpose of workforce enhancement. Each program was eligible for an increase based on a calculation of their current CDVSA-funded personnel costs times a 10% increase, plus or minus the Alaska Geographic Differential for each community receiving funds. The increased amounts ranged from 9.5% to 16.1%. Funding was available for three specific categories of workforce enhancement: increased salaries, increased benefits, and staff training. Twenty-one community-based sub-grantees received a total of \$1,252,007. We hope that increased funding will professionalize and compensate for the work of DV/SA advocates and direct service workers providing emergency services to those impacted by domestic, sexual, and other violent crimes.

### Rebuilding Staff Capacity

As part of rebuilding in FY18, CDVSA reestablished an Administrative Officer I (AOI). The AOI is a critical position that manages, oversees, and administers the Council's state and federal funding, as well as distributes the funding to community-based programs for victim, survivors, perpetrators, and prevention services. A second position identified as essential for CDVSA was a Grants Administrator — a vital role that manages and monitors the awarding of

community-based grants. This position monitors grant programs for state and federal compliance to use public funds effectively and efficiently. Recruitment for this position will continue into FY19.

### Bree's Law Legislation and TDVAM Poster

A highlight of FY18 was the passage of HB214, an act formally naming a portion of the Alaska Safe Children's Act as Bree's Law in remembrance of 20-year-old Bree Moore who was murdered in 2014 by her boyfriend in a senseless act of violence. The passage of HB214 solidified the importance of educating Alaska youth about healthy relationships, what signs to look for that a relationship is not healthy, and providing for school-based training on issues related to teen dating violence. In honor

On June 25, 2014, 20-year-old Breanna Moore was shot and killed by her boyfriend as a result of dating violence. Bree's family is working with agencies across Alaska to raise awareness about teen dating violence to keep this from happening to you or someone you love.

**EVERYONE DESERVES A SAFE AND HEALTHY DATING RELATIONSHIP**

Every year in Alaska's traditional high schools:  
1,000 students experience sexual dating violence one or more times  
1,300 students experience physical dating violence

To learn more about healthy relationships and how to prevent violence, visit: [LOVEISRESPECT.org](http://LOVEISRESPECT.org) and [CSUAK.org](http://CSUAK.org)  
Follow the conversation: @loveisrespect  
Text: love to 22822 Call: 1.866.331.8414

of Bree Moore and in recognition of February's Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, the Council created a poster highlighting Bree and the reality of teen dating violence. The poster was distributed to school districts throughout Alaska.

### Competitive Victim Services Request for Proposals

In February 2018, CDVSA staff began drafting a new competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for Community-Based Victim Services. Establishing a new RFP and process for applying for public state and federal funding was another step in strengthening CDVSA's foundation for service and providing funding opportunities for new partners. CDVSA publicly issued the RFP on April 9, 2018, and received 24 applications for consideration.

Following a review, scoring and recommendations from two Proposal Evaluation Committees the CDVSA Board met on June 12 to review the solicitation process and approve or deny the suggestions of the PECs and staff. The Board voted unanimously to fund all twenty-four applicants, adding four new victim services programs. The four new grantees represent rural, tribal, and off-road communities of Emmonak, Petersburg, Craig, and Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Existing programs receiving new grant funding to serve the communities of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, Sitka, Bethel, Unalaska, Ketchikan, Palmer, Valdez, Nome, Cordova, Kodiak, Dillingham, Seward, Kenai, and Homer. Funding for these programs began July 1, 2018, and will continue through June 30, 2021.

During this same Council Board meeting, a decision was made to fund the Disability Abuse Response Teams (DART), a program of the UAA Center for Human Development. DART is working to improve outcomes for victim of crime with increased vulnerability and a lack of services due to their disabilities. Six communities currently have a DART program: Anchorage, Cordova, Kenai/Soldotna, Nome, Petersburg, and Seward.



## critical issues

While there were many program highlights in FY18, there were additional issues that rose to a more critical level of attention—issues that created more urgency than day-to-day accomplishments and highlights.

### VOCA Site Visit/Compliance Issues/Policy & Practice Updates

In September 2017, the Council received a site visit to review and assess compliance with the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) conditions necessary to obtain these federal grant funds. During the 3-day site review, all CDVSA staff were available, present, and involved. The team spent many hours before the visit organizing documents for review. During the exit interview, federal reviewers stated that CDVSA is doing well — harnessing good

relationships with grantees, partners, and collaborators while successfully serving victims of crime across Alaska. In October 2017, VOCA presented CDVSA with a full report of the site visit findings (14 in all). A majority of the issues were one-time corrections of a process or practice; others were a lack of procedures and policies to adequately meet VOCA requirements, necessitating changes to our policies and practices regarding the distribution of VOCA grant funds. The critical findings were:

- Potential co-mingling of different federal and state

funding awards to sub-recipients;

- Lack of agency policies and procedures for several topics;
- Advanced funding vs. monthly reimbursement of expenditures for all federal dollars awarded to sub-recipients; and
- Inadequate plan for monitoring all sub-recipients bi-annually, including a lack of a baseline annual risk assessment.

Both the site visit and the final report provided a clear path forward for achieving compliance with VOCA rules and guidance.

## Emergency Request for Funding from Emmonak Women's Shelter

In late January 2018, CDVSA was informed of a potentially severe funding issue with the Emmonak Women's Shelter (EWS) in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. At that time, EWS did not receive funding from CDVSA and was functioning primarily with depleting federal funds. EWS serves 13 villages surrounding Emmonak, filling a critical need for this service area. If EWS closed, it would have a significant impact on our funded program in Bethel, the Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC). A special CDVSA Board meeting was called to decide on an emergency request from EWS in the amount of \$105,734 to keep the shelter open. The CDVSA Board decided to grant emergency funding to EWS, by funding TWC as an existing pass-through grantee, keeping the EWS open through June 30, 2018.

## Development of New Sub-Recipient Monitoring Tools and Process

One primary task following the VOCA site review was the development of new sub-recipient monitoring tools and process. Federal grant awards require states to conduct onsite inspections every two years for each funded program.

In addition, CDVSA must conduct risk assessments annually and financial desk reviews bi-annually. During the second half of FY18, staff worked tirelessly to develop a robust and compliant monitoring system to incorporate into CDVSA policies and practices. The new monitoring system and plan will be implemented in FY19.

## Partnership with AK Judicial Council, Develop a Plan to Survey all BIP Programs

During FY17, CDVSA recognized the need for improving services related to programs for rehabilitation of perpetrators of domestic violence as prescribed by 22 AAC, Chapter 25 with the Department of Corrections (DOC). While responsibility resides within the DOC, there is a long-standing Memorandum of Agreement between CDVSA and DOC to have all Battering Intervention Programs administered by CDVSA. Since 2013, there has been an effort by CDVSA and BIP/Prison-Based Programs to review, revise, and update the associated regulations, program guides, and the application/approval process for these programs. In partnership with the Alaska Judicial Council, CDVSA developed a survey for all currently approved BIP/PBP programs (both funded and unfunded). The survey will be

administered in early FY19, the first step in accomplishing a full review and revision of BIP regulations and programming changes. These are critical programs, and should follow best practice and data-driven programming models that meet the current needs of Alaska, in terms of accountability, rehabilitation, and victim safety.

## Sexual Assault, SAKI and SART

During FY18, much attention focused on issues, needs, and gaps in services for victims of sexual assault, testing of sexual assault kits, community resources, and responses to victims and their families. This focus is not only in Alaska, but a national recognition that not enough has been done to raise awareness, priority, and seriousness to the issues of sexual assault, rape, and abuse. CDVSA, along with many partners, are examining the gaps and needs, as well as developing a diverse and multi-agency response to improve safety, reporting, collection, and testing of evidence, trauma-informed interviewing, and service delivery. A stronger focus on prosecution, accountability, and appropriate consequences for those responsible for these crimes is critical. These efforts will continue and grow stronger in FY19.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Economic Burden of Rape.*

## essential next steps for FY19

Every activity, analysis, task, and critical issue addressed or uncovered in FY18 lays the foundation for action, programming, and interventions.

### Annual Grantee Meeting

For the first time, CDVSA will host an All-Grantee Meeting. The intent is to make this a yearly opportunity for all CDVSA grantees to join together in learning, networking, and camaraderie.

### Forensic Training Academy

In response to the need for increased access to health care providers trained in forensic and trauma-informed interviewing and evidence collection, CDVSA is developing a new partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage College of Health — watch for news of the Alaska Comprehensive Forensic Training Academy!

### Data, Evaluation Support for Grantees, and Partnership with UAA School of Social Work

Data are relevant and necessary to tell our stories, measure our

outcomes and progress, and to make informed decisions and policy-making to improve prevention, services, and accountability.

### VOCA Funding Expansion—New RFP

CDVSA is requesting additional federal spending authority for expenditure in FY20. A new RFP is being developed and will be released in early FY20 to expand funding opportunities for community agencies to better meet the needs of victims, survivors, and those impacted by violent crimes in Alaska.

### Staff Increases

To keep up with available federal funding and compliance issues such as monitoring and community need, CDVSA is seeking two additional positions in FY19 to expand staff capacity to effectively and efficiently manage all public funds (state and federal) available to Alaska.

### AVS Planning for FY20

Since SFY10, the state of Alaska has conducted the Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) every five years. FY20 is on track for Alaska's third survey. Based on a national CDC victimization survey, AVS provides Alaska with the only in-depth, self-reporting survey for understanding victimization in Alaska from a deeply personal perspective. In FY19, CDVSA will begin pre-planning for the next AVS in partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage College of Health and Justice Center.



## After the 2017 Lead On! Youth Summit...

**97%** of participants understand what to do if someone is experiencing abuse (+15%)

**95%** of participants understand how to prevent dating violence (+10%)

**80%** of participants understand how to prevent sexual assault (+35%)

**100%** of Sitka Youth Leadership Committee members can recognize warning signs of an unhealthy relationship

**>50%** of boys said "I can name many different feelings" and "It's okay to cry" were true for them after participating in Boys Run

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## communities in action

Communities across Alaska were busy in FY18 turning ideas into action. What follows is a snapshot of how Alaska is moving closer to becoming freed from domestic and sexual violence.

### Sitkans Against Family Violence

In June and July, Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) Children's Program sponsored two weeks of Explore More Summer Camp. This full-day camp is designed to provide a safe space for children, strengthen

protective factors to help children cope with stress and trauma, and connect children with people and organizations in the community.

Pictured here, children mindfully walked on the beach at low tide after spending the morning discovering how connecting to the land and the natural world can help us when we are upset. SAFV provided this camp at no cost to families.



### Schools in Action

In February, B.I.O.N.I.C (a program of Cordova Family Resource Center) raised awareness for Teen Dating Violence Awareness month with their Hands Unite to Make a Difference wall, Post-it notes throughout Cordova High School

with healthy relationships quotes, and daily school announcements.

Students at Hopson Middle School in Utqiagvik created a Unity Tree to prevent and overcome bullying behaviors. Each leaf has a positive message about how to prevent bullying.



## Utqiavik on the Move

Girls on the Run participants spent time at the Utqiavik Mayor's Office performing community service.

## Valdez Taking Steps

Advocates for Victims of Violence (Valdez) sponsor Walk a Mile in Her Shoes—100% of the proceeds raised supported local victim services.



## Standing Together Against Rape – STAR (Anchorage)

“STAR saved my life. When I was 13 and 14-years old, a family member was sexually abusing me. I knew of no other way out than to end my own life. I had plans of how I was going to kill myself down to the day and time. A few days before the date I had chosen, a STAR educator spoke to my class. A day or two later when I had planned on killing myself, I called the number she had given out instead. The person who answered the line assured me I would be safe now.”

An Excerpt from a Success Story – received via email.



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Communication is a crucial component of a healthy relationship. While the term “no means no” is well known, we rarely talk about how an agreement between partners to engage in sexual activity (consent\*) can apply to expressing what someone wants or doesn’t want.

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## What consent looks like

Sexual consent must be explicit—don’t assume that silence or hesitation means yes

Giving consent for one activity, one time, does not mean giving consent for increased or recurring sexual contact

Checking in with your partner every step of the way—it’s fine to slow down

You can always change your mind and stop at any time

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## What consent is not

Hesitation, silence or giving in to pressure

Simply being flirty or dressing up does not = consent

Agreeing to sex while under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Being with someone under the legal age of consent

Source: LoveisRespect.org and RAINN.org

\*This is not a legal definition of consent, but an understanding of what agreement or consent looks like in everyday life.

## FY18 Shelter services provided:



**3,383**

unduplicated participants who received emergency or transitional shelter



**104,311**

shelter nights provided

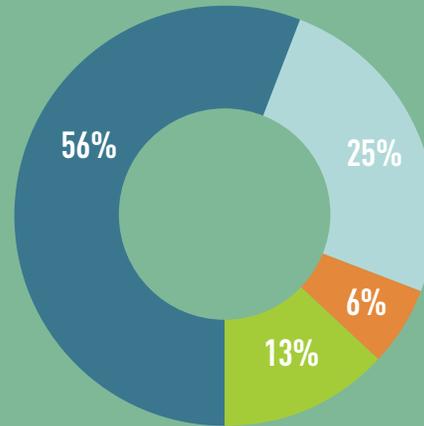


**ON AVERAGE**

participants who received shelter services stayed an average of 31 nights per year

## Primary issues reported by victims being served:

- domestic violence
- sexual assault
- stalking/harassment
- other violent crimes



## FY18 Perpetrator Rehabilitation Services Provided

### NEW PARTICIPANTS COURT-ORDERED INTO BATTERING INTERVENTION PROGRAMS (BIP):

COMMUNITY-BASED = 124

PRISON-BASED = 26

### PARTICIPANTS ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM:

COMMUNITY-BASED = 147

PRISON-BASED = 111

### PARTICIPANTS COMPLETING THE PROGRAM IN FY18:

COMMUNITY-BASED = 80

PRISON-BASED = 27

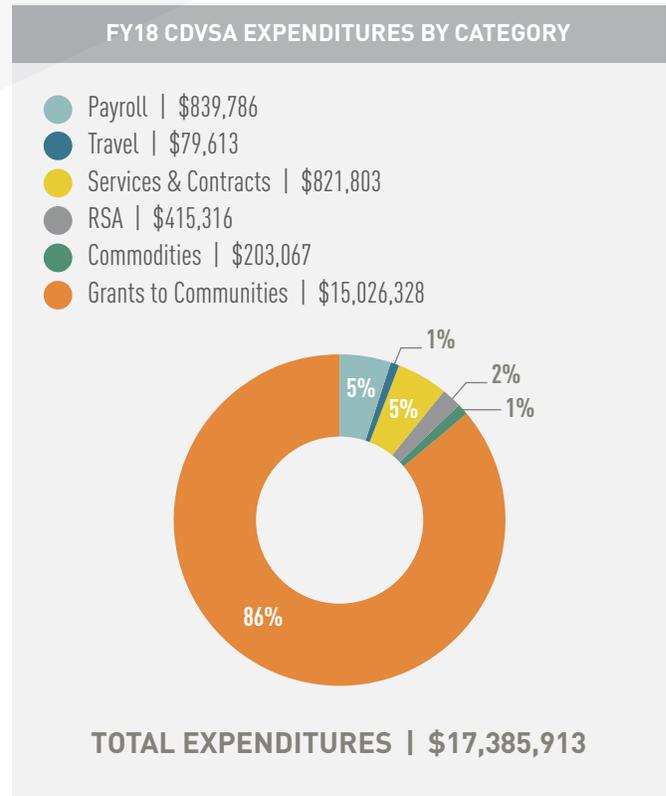
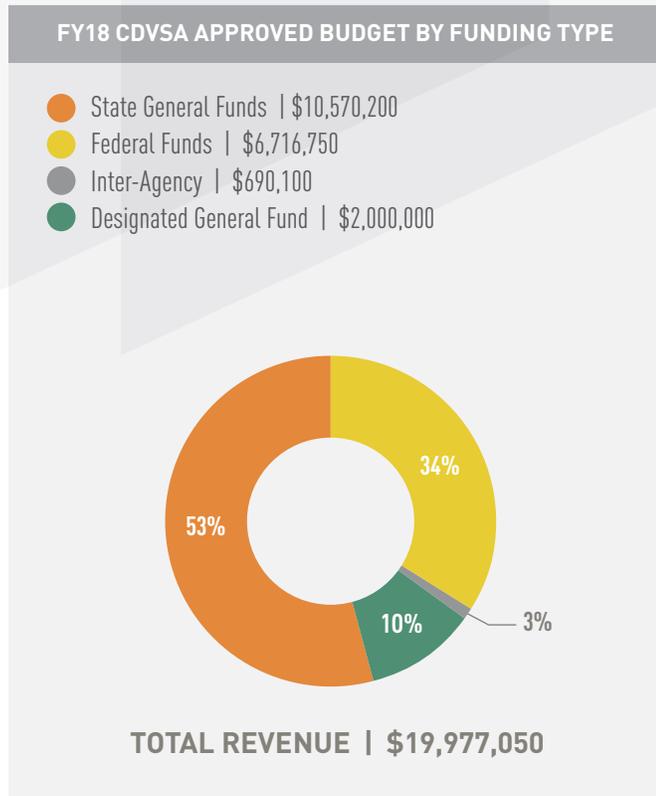
### VICTIM SAFETY CHECKS COMPLETED:

COMMUNITY-BASED = 739

PRISON-BASED = 73

# cdvsa funding and finances

State | Federal funding partnership to end domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes in Alaska:



FY18 GRANT LINE DETAIL	AMOUNT	PERCENT		PERCENTAGE
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	\$ 3,720,253.25	23.95%	<b>All Grants for Direct Victim Services \$ 13,286,327.58</b>	<b>86%</b>
Sexual Assault Services Programs (SASP)	163,678.00	1.05%		
Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)	717,192.00	4.62%		
General Fund Victim Services (GF)	8,685,204.33	55.92%		
Alaska Network on DV/SA	238,313.00	1.53%	<b>All VAWA Reimbursable Service Agreements \$ 653,628.94</b>	<b>4%</b>
RSA Alaska State Troopers	194,988.24	1.26%		
RSA Department of Law	193,808.02	1.25%		
RSA Alaska Court System	26,519.68	0.17%		
Justice for Families (JFF)	178,976.00	1.15%	<b>Prevention and Other Community Grants \$ 1,592,790.00</b>	<b>10%</b>
Prison Battering Program (PBP)	98,237.00	0.63%		
Battering Intervention Program (BIP)	220,021.00	1.42%		
Community Based Prevention Program (CBPP)	736,051.00	4.74%		
Community Readiness (CR)	359,505.00	2.31%		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 15,532,746.52</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		



We Choose All of Us

RARR

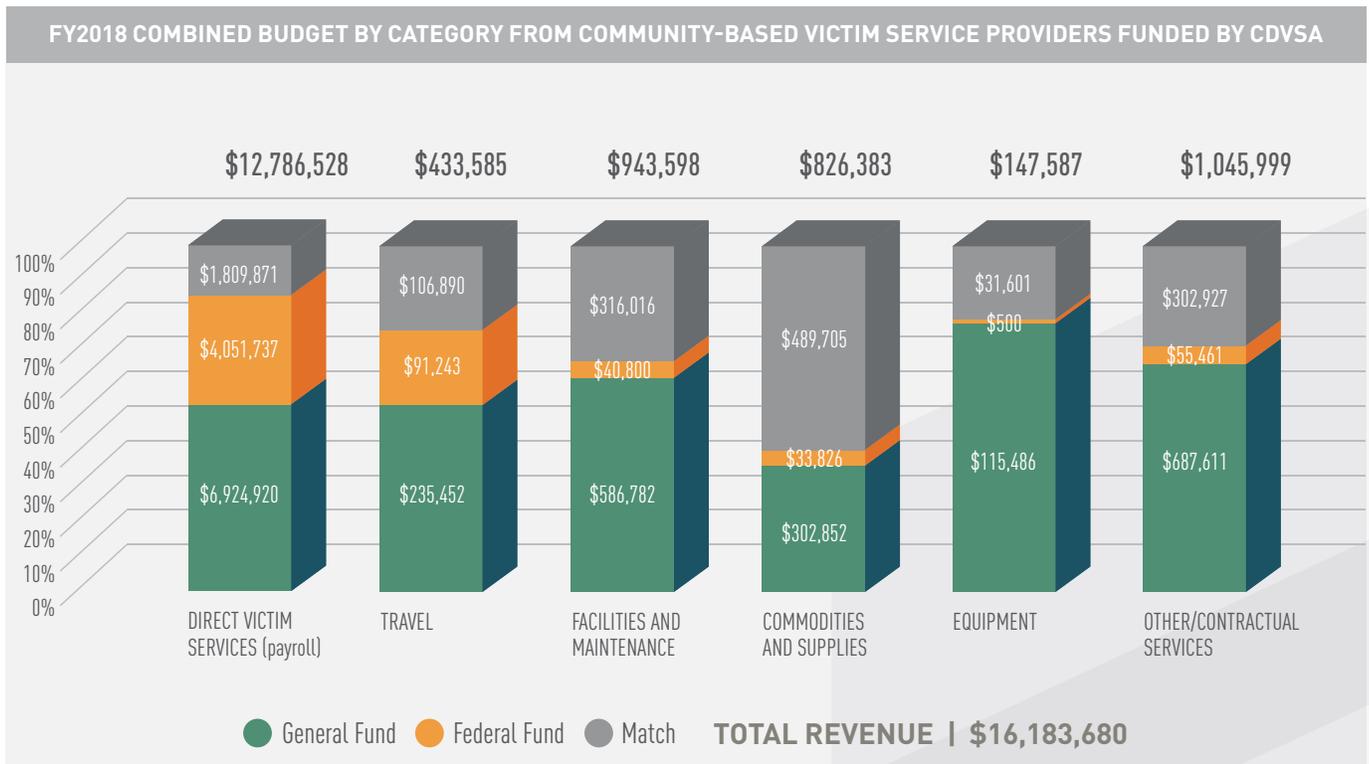
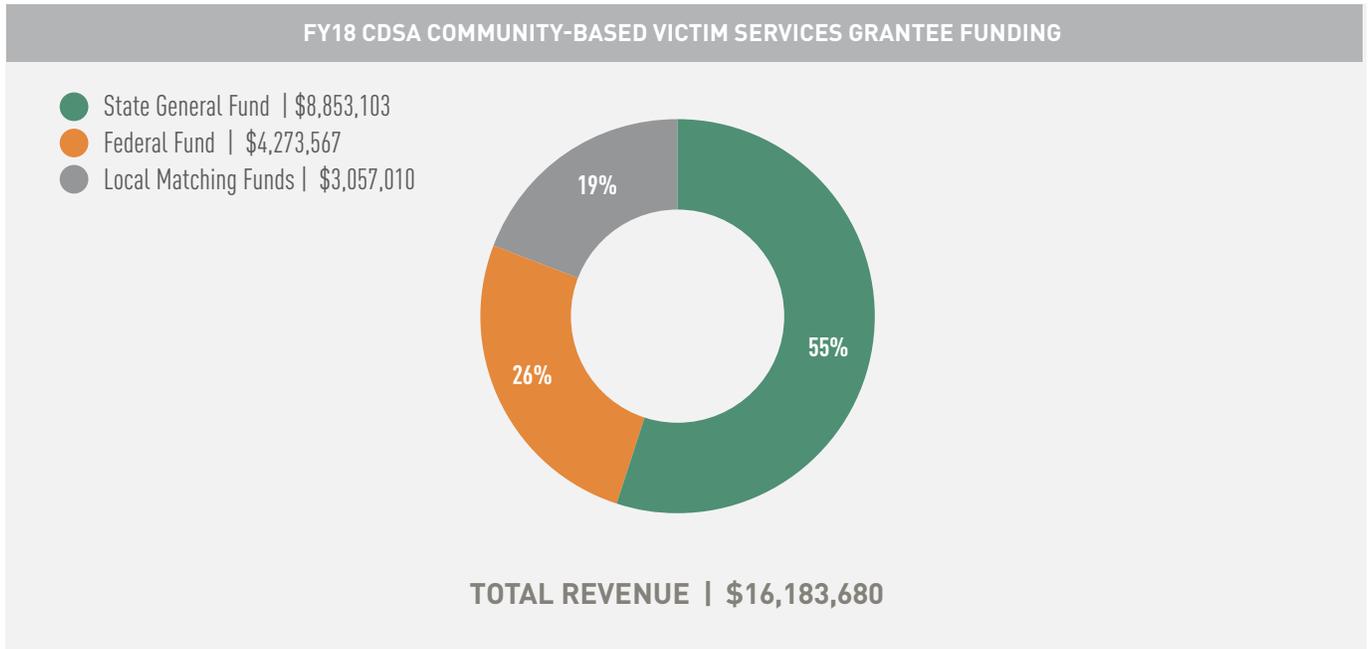
EXIT

EXIT



## how community grantees use cdvsa funds

Each year, CDVSA funds community-based victim services providers, with a combination of state general funds and federal funds allocated based on type of service provided. Additionally, grantees are required to provide local community match funding in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. These diagrams show how grantees are funded and how these funds support local activities to provide safety, advocacy, and services to victims of violent crimes.



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907.465.4356

<https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Home>

## Resources

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault website: <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Home>

For a listing of statewide programs for victims; legal advocacy & pro bono legal services; and sexual response teams go to: <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Services/VictimServices>

For a listing of statewide battering intervention programs go to: <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Services/ForMenWhoCommitDV>

For a copy of Alaska's STOP (VAWA) Four Year Implementation Plan, FFY2017-2020 go to: <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Resources/STOP-Plan>

For a listing of statewide Children's Advocacy Centers go to: <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Services/ForYouth>

For information on statewide DV/SA Prevention Programming go to: <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Prevention>

For information on CDVSA upcoming events go to: <https://cdvsa.eventsmart.com/>

To review and obtain a copies of the Alaska Victimization Surveys go to: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/justice-center/research/alaska-victimization-survey/>

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault website: <http://www.andvsa.org/>

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center website: <http://www.aknwrcc.org/>

Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) website: <http://doa.alaska.gov/vccb/>



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