

Family Violence Prevention & Services Program

FY 2020 Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

Allowable Use of Funds

for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Formula Grantees

States, Tribes, and DV Coalitions

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Program's [Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act, P.L. 116-136](#) supplemental awards provide flexibility in how your agency or Tribe uses the funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency to support families impacted by family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence. This supplemental funding provides the flexibility for how your agency or Tribe responds to the evolving needs of domestic violence survivors and local domestic violence programs within your community to ensure the continuity of shelter and supportive services.

This document details a list of allowable activities that may support your efforts to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 for victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence. All CARES Act supplemental awards provide flexibility in how you use the funding to support a wide range of in-scope activities including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, teletherapy, peer support, shelter and temporary housing, rental assistance and nominal relocation expenses, supplies, and equipment and software to assist in carrying out remote services. All activities listed must align with your Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) CARES Act supplemental funding program narrative and budget. Funding may also be used to purchase supplies needed to safely staff and operate shelters and programs during this public health emergency. This list is not exhaustive, as there may be other allowable uses of funds consistent with the terms and conditions of current FVPSA awards and that is in alignment with FVPSA program requirements for the States, Tribes, and Domestic Violence Coalitions.

Administrative Costs

There is a limit to the amount of supplemental funding that can be used for administrative costs by state administrators as they carry out the subgranting requirements of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. According to 42 U.S.C. §10406(b)(1), each State may not use more than 5 percent of grant funds for State administrative costs. States must participate in the distribution of the FVPSA state subgrants and subgrant funds as well as the administration of FVPSA state-funded grant programs and projects (42 U.S.C. § 10411(d)(2)).

Please note that in terms of continuity of domestic violence services, in accordance with the Administration for Children and Families [Information Memorandum IM-ACF-OA-2020-01](#), to the extent permitted by law, grantees/recipients are allowed to continue to charge salaries and benefits to their currently active awards consistent with the grantees/recipients' policy of paying salaries (under

unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal. Grantees/recipients will be permitted to amend/create emergency policies in order to put emergency contingencies in place. ACF will allow other allowable costs (e.g., program-related, allocable, reasonable) that are necessary to resume activities supported by the award to be charged to their awards, consistent with applicable Federal cost principles and the benefit to the project. ACF will evaluate the grantee's/recipient's ability to resume the project. Additional information can be found by visiting <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-funding/acf-grant-recipient-covid-19>.

Supplemental Funding Allowable Activities

Prevent – Activities that assist domestic violence survivors by providing supportive services, shelter options, and supplies which will reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19.

- Perform outreach and provide education to local domestic violence programs and Tribes on strategies that reduce [COVID-19 transmission](#), using existing materials where available. Please note that grantees are expected to use materials from federal agencies and/or local public health departments.
- Disseminate [educational materials](#) and resources to local domestic violence programs and Tribes on precautions to [prevent](#), contain, or mitigate COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. Please note that grantees are expected to use materials from federal agencies and/or local public health departments.
- Provision, on a regular basis, of immediate shelter and related supportive services to adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents, including paying for the operating and administrative expenses of the facilities for such shelter;
 - These FVPSA supplemental funds can be used to provide temporary refuge in conjunction with supportive services in compliance with applicable State or Tribal law or regulations and includes:
 - Housing provision including assistance locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services;
 - Rental Subsidies;
 - Temporary refuge or lodging in individual units such as apartments (which is not required to be owned, operated or leased by the program);
 - Safe homes; and
 - Hotel or motel vouchers.
- Provision of prevention services, including outreach to underserved populations to increase access to domestic violence services and reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19; and
- Strengthen partnerships with local and state public health authorities, emergency services managers, health care providers, culturally specific community based organizations, Tribes and domestic violence programs to improve emergency operations.

Prepare – Activities that include assessing needs of survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Activities that provide training, information, and assistance necessary to ensure the continuity domestic violence services. Assessing the capacity of local domestic violence programs and Tribes emergency operation plans and plans to address the needs of survivors and reduce the exposure and risk of COVID-19. Please note that the provision of remote services would be an allowable activity.

- Assess the capacity of agencies, local domestic violence programs, and Tribes to provide continuity of domestic violence services, including emergency operations plan and plans to address increasing service demands, remote services operational capacity, potential provider closures, and staff absenteeism;
- Provide training to assist agencies, local domestic violence programs, and Tribes in reviewing, updating, and/or implementing emergency operations plan and plans to address increasing service demands, remote services operational capacity, potential provider closures, and staff absenteeism;
- Provide training, information, and assistance for ensuring the continuity of local domestic violence programs and tribal domestic violence programs to develop safety plans, and support efforts of victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence to make decisions related to their ongoing safety and well-being during the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Provide training, information, and assistance for ensuring the continuity of local domestic violence programs and tribal domestic violence programs to help them maintain the capacity to provide individual and group counseling, peer support groups, and referral to community-based services to assist family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence victims, and their dependents, in recovering from the effects of the violence during COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Provide training, information, and assistance for ensuring the continuity of local domestic violence programs and tribal domestic violence programs to help them maintain the capacity to provide services for children exposed to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, including age-appropriate counseling, supportive services, and services for the non-abusing parent that support that parent’s role as a caregiver, which may, as appropriate, include services that work with the non-abusing parent and child together, during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Please note that the provision of remote services would be an allowable activity; and
- Provide training, information, and assistance for ensuring the continuity of local domestic violence programs and tribal domestic violence programs to help them maintain the capacity to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services during COVID-19 public health emergency.

Respond – Activities and technical assistance for ensuring the continuity of domestic violence services during the COVID-19 public health crisis which includes responding to issues including adapting to fluctuating needs and circumstances. Please note that the provision of remote services would be an allowable activity:

- Provision of services, training, technical assistance, and outreach to increase awareness of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence and increase the accessibility of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence services;
- Provision of advocacy, case management services, and information and referral services concerning issues related to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence intervention and prevention, including—
 - (i) Assistance in accessing related Federal and State financial assistance programs;
 - (ii) Legal advocacy to assist victims and their dependents;
 - (iii) Medical advocacy, including provision of referrals for appropriate health care services (including mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse treatment), but which shall not include reimbursement for any health care services;
 - (iv) Assistance locating and securing safe and affordable permanent housing and homelessness prevention services;
 - (v) Provision of transportation, child care, respite care, job training and employment services, financial literacy services and education, financial planning, and related economic empowerment services;
 - (vi) Parenting and other educational services for victims and their dependents; and
- Provision of direct crisis intervention services, including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, peer support, and in-person assistance. Mobile advocacy allows for advocates to work out in the community in order to support domestic violence survivors wherever it is safe and convenient for the survivor.

Resources

Please see the following links for additional resources and information:

- Family and Youth Services Bureau, Federal Guidance in Addressing COVID-19 webpage, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/news/federal-guidance-in-addressing-covid-19>
- FAQs on Allowable Use of FVPSA Funds during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/news/faqs-on-allowable-use-of-fvpsa-funds-during-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency>.
- Administration for Children and Families Information Memorandum IM-ACF-OA-2020-01, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-funding/acf-grant-recipient-covid-19>.

Questions and Points of Contact

The FVPSA Program understands that when responding to survivors your original plan for use of the COVID-19 supplemental funds may change due to unforeseen and changing circumstances. The FVPSA Program understands that when responding to survivors your original plan for use of the COVID-19 supplemental funds may change due to unforeseen and changing circumstances. Budget changes can be made as long as they are in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements,

Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards available at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=pt45.1.75> and are consistent with the terms and conditions of your award.

If you require scope changes, please review the information on the [ACF COVID-19 Response and Resources](#) webpage, and submit any needed scope adjustment or change in scope requests to your FVPSA Federal Project Officer; contact information is provided in a chart on the next page.

FVPSA FORMULA TEAM REGIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION	
<p>Rickeya Franklin – Formula Team Manager Rickeya.Franklin@acf.hhs.gov (National Domestic Violence Hotline)</p>	
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<p>Brian Pinero – Program Specialist 202-401-5524 Brian.Pinero@acf.hhs.gov Regions 2, 3 & 5 (States & Coalitions), NNEDV Capacity Building</p>	<p>Shena Williams – Senior Program Specialist 202-205-5932 Shena.Williams@acf.hhs.gov Region 9 & 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA State & State Coalitions, AK Tribes) (NIWRC, AKNWRC)</p>
<p>Betty Johnson – Program Specialist 202-205-4866 Betty.Johnson@acf.hhs.gov Tribes in Region 2, 5, 9 and 10 (NJ, NY, PR, VI, IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI, ID, AR, CA, NV OR, WA)</p>	