



# Introduction to Grants

Grants Offered by the OAG, Grant Writing Tips, OAG Grant Standards, and Q&A

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Views expressed are those of the presenters, do not constitute legal advice, and are not official opinions of the Office of the Texas Attorney General.



# Grant Programs



# Crime Victim Services Grants Offered by the OAG

- ▶ Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG)
- ▶ Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS)
- ▶ Victim Coordinator and Liaison Grant (VCLG)



# Other Victim Assistance Grants (OVAG)

- ▶ Historically offered every other year for a two-year term and is highly competitive.
- ▶ OVAG is the most unique grant program offered by the OAG, with the highest number of grantees, and is distinct in that it allows for victims to be served that may not be eligible to receive services under other grant programs.
- ▶ Non-profits, local units of government, and State agencies who offer services to crime victims are eligible for OVAG.



# Other Victim Assistance Grants (OVAG) Continued

- ▶ While a great deal of funding is siloed (sexual assault, domestic violence, etc.) for specific purposes, OVAG is open to almost all types of services (the main exception is for offender-based services which are prohibited by the historical funding source).
- ▶ OVAG currently provides funding to domestic violence shelters, sexual assault programs, civil legal service centers, law enforcement agencies (state and local level), universities, faith-based organizations, child advocacy centers, court appointed special advocates, hospital districts, and other non-profits founded to address specific types of victim services.



# Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS)

- ▶ Currently five SAPCS grants offered by the OAG
  - Federal Rape Prevention Education ([RPE])
  - Preventative Health and Human Services (PHHS) Block State
  - State (Advocacy Enhancement and Counseling Waitlist Reduction)
  - State (Rural and Border County Service Enhancement)
  
- ▶ SAPCS grants are open to Sexual Assault Programs.
  
- ▶ As defined by the Texas Government Code, Chapter 420, Section 420.003 (7), a Sexual Assault Program is any local public or private nonprofit corporation, independent of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office, that is operated as an independent program or as part of a municipal, county, or state agency and that provides the minimum services to adult survivors of stranger and non-stranger sexual assault.



# Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) continued

- ▶ The minimum services include:
  - 24-hour Crisis Hotline
  - Crisis Intervention
  - Public Education
  - Advocacy
  - Accompaniment to Hospitals, Law Enforcement Offices, Prosecutor's Offices, and Courts.
  
- ▶ The OAG makes the final determination of a Sexual Assault Program



# Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) - Federal

- ▶ SAPCS-Federal grants are funded by the federal Rape Prevention Education (RPE) grant from the CDC, CFDA 93.136.
- ▶ Eligible applicants are Sexual Assault Programs (must be a current SAPCS-State grantee as well) and the State Sexual Assault Coalition.
- ▶ Application cycles are roughly every 4 to 5 years.
- ▶ For Sexual Assault Programs, this program funds specific strategies and activities that support the primary prevention of sexual violence.
- ▶ The strategies and activities must align with the State Action Plan.
- ▶ Starting in FY 2025, a Health Equity component was added to the requirements for this program.





# Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) – PHHS Block

- ▶ SAPCS-PHHS Block grants are funded by the federal Preventative Health and Human Services (PHHS) Block grant from the CDC, CFDA 93.991.
- ▶ Eligible applicants are Sexual Assault Programs (must be a current SAPCS-State grantee as well) and the State Sexual Assault Coalition.
- ▶ Application cycles are historically every other year.
- ▶ For Sexual Assault Programs, this grant funds direct victim services to sexual assault survivors and sexual assault prevention activities.
- ▶ This program has evolved from funding being combined with RPE funding in SAPCS-Federal to becoming its own grant program due to evolving activity requirements.



# Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) – State

- ▶ SAPCS-State is funded an appropriation from of state dollars (mostly from the sexual assault fund) from the Texas Legislature.
- ▶ Eligible applicants are Sexual Assault Programs.
- ▶ Application cycles are historically every other year.
- ▶ This grant program is adult survivor focused, and funds direct victim services to sexual assault survivors and sexual assault related outreach and training.
- ▶ All applicants must meet the minimum services, and provide those services, for at least nine months prior to the grant application submission. Funded programs must maintain compliance with the minimum standards throughout the grant.



# Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) – State (Advocacy and Counseling )

- ▶ SAPCS-State (Advocacy Enhancement and Counseling Waitlist Reduction) program provides funding for sexual assault related advocacy, individual counseling, and group/therapeutic counseling.
- ▶ Eligible applicants are Sexual Assault Programs (must be a current SAPCS-State grantee as well).
- ▶ New funding from the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session



# Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services (SAPCS) – State (Rural and Border)

- ▶ SAPCS-State (Rural and Border County Service Enhancement) program provides funding for Sexual Assault Programs to address challenges faced in providing services to survivors in rural and border counties.
- ▶ Eligible applicants are Sexual Assault Programs (must be a current SAPCS-State grantee as well).
- ▶ New funding from the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session
- ▶ Funding is prioritized for Travel, Outreach, Communications (including internet services), and Satellite Offices for previously un-served areas.



# Victim Coordinator and Liaison Grant (VCLG)

- ▶ Funds positions mandated by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 56A.201 (Victim Assistance Coordinator) for prosecutor offices and 56A.203 (Crime Victim Liaison) for law enforcement offices.
- ▶ Historically offered every other year for a two-year term and is highly competitive.
- ▶ Eligible Organizations:
  - A local criminal prosecutor, defined as a district attorney, a criminal district attorney, a county attorney with felony responsibility, or a county attorney who prosecutes criminal cases.
  - local law enforcement agency, defined as the police department of a municipality or the sheriff's department of any county.
- ▶ Only Crime Victim Liaisons and Victim Assistance Coordinators will be funded under VCLG.



# **Grant Writing Tips**

Do's and Do Not's



# Application Do's and Do Not's

- ▶ **Do** – answer the question that is asked. Provide enough detail to fully answer the question without straying from the original topic or request. For example, a fill in the blank question generally should not result in a half page response.
- ▶ **Do Not** – Talk about what your organization does in the Project Summary section of the application.
- ▶ **Do** –Focus on the Direct Victim Services to be provided for OVAG, SAPCS (except Federal), and VCLG.

*Note: Following these tips does not guarantee funding and these are solely helpful suggestions to reduce special conditions if funded*



# Application Do's and Do Not's

- ▶ **Do** – Ensure your application matches up between the application narratives, budget hours, and position narratives.
  - For example, if outreach is included in budget hours, make sure outreach is included in the position narrative for that position and in the application request.
  
- ▶ **Do** – Provide marked-up/highlighted job descriptions with job titles that match the position titles listed on the budget.
  
- ▶ **Do Not** – Submit a Resolution of the Governing Body signed by the Designated Authorized Official
  - The Authorized Official cannot designate themselves the Authorized Official.

*\*Note: Following these tips does not guarantee funding and these are solely helpful suggestions to reduce special conditions if funded.*





# Application Do's and Do Not's

- ▶ **Do** – Use the Budget template provided in the application system for your application budget. If you cannot locate it, contact [grants@oag.texas.gov](mailto:grants@oag.texas.gov) for assistance.
  
- ▶ **Do** – Ensure you fully read the Application Kit(s) before starting your application. Changes can be made from previous cycles that impact eligibility or allowable activities.
  
- ▶ **Do Not** – Wait until the last minute to submit your application.
  - There isn't a grace period, once the application period ends, the system closes, and we will not reopen it.

*\*Note: Following these tips does not guarantee funding and these are solely helpful suggestions to reduce special conditions if funded.*



# **OAG Grant Standards**



# GAD Guiding Principle

- ▶ Balance being good stewards of the funds while helping grantees serve crime victims across Texas.
- ▶ We expect our grantees to provide compassionate and informed care to crime victims, while abiding by grant requirements.
- ▶ We enforce the requirements to ensure funding remains available and is not taken away due to improper management.



# Expectations of Grantees

- ▶ Grantees are expected to:
  - Provide high level care to the victims they serve.
  - Ensure they remain in compliance with the grant requirements.
    - Including notification of changes in personnel or agency name within 10 business days of the change.
  - Provide timely responses to GAD communications
  - Inform GAD if there is any concern or possibility of fraud, waste, or abuse.



# Expectations of GAD

- ▶ GAD is expected to:
  - Provide high level customer service to grantees by processing invoices and providing guidance in a timely and professional manner.
  - Ensure all costs requested by grantees are allocable, allowable, and reasonable.
  - Ensure performance reports only reflect allowable activities and if unallowable activities are reported, ensure those activities are not billed to the grants.



# Expectations of GAD continued

- ▶ GAD is expected to:
  - Remain vigilant for signs of risk and respond accordingly
    - Examples of signs of risk:
      - Lack of communication
      - Abnormal billing
      - Negative media coverage
      - Complaints from victims or staff
      - Report of fraud, waste, or abuse
    - Examples of responses:
      - Financial Holds
      - Technical Assistance



## Q&A

Does anyone have questions?



# OAG Grant Assistance

- ▶ For questions regarding available programs, or grant applications, you may contact [Grants@oag.texas.gov](mailto:Grants@oag.texas.gov).
- ▶ Current grantees, for questions regarding your current grant you may contact your grant manager or [OAG-Grants@oag.texas.gov](mailto:OAG-Grants@oag.texas.gov).
- ▶ If you do not receive a timely response from either of the above, feel free to contact me:
  - [Karly.Watson@oag.texas.gov](mailto:Karly.Watson@oag.texas.gov)





# Resources

- ▶ Grants Administration Website: [Grants | Office of the Attorney General \(texasattorneygeneral.gov\)](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/grants)
- ▶ To sign up for notices regarding grant funding availability, visit: [Email Subscriptions Center | Office of the Attorney General \(texasattorneygeneral.gov\)](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/email-subscriptions-center)