REACHING UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS:
The New Culturally Specific Set-Aside

Jennifer Kaplan
Attorney Advisor
Office on Violence Against Women

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VAWA 2005’s Culturally Specific Set-Aside

- STOP allocation formula was amended to provide that, within the 30 percent allocation for victim services, “at least 10 percent shall be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations”
- Change took effect with FY 2007 funding
Type of Agency

What type of agencies can receive funds under the set-aside for “culturally specific community-based organizations”? Organizations that:

- Have a focus on any underserved population;
- Are providing services tailored to the unique needs of that population; AND
- At a minimum, have some expertise or demonstrated capacity to work effectively on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking or acquire that expertise through collaboration with another entity.
Type of Agency – Questions

- What type of organization likely will meet these three criteria?
  - Organizations whose primary mission is to address the needs of an underserved population
    - Important to identify and support such organizations
    - Recipient may obtain necessary domestic violence/sexual assault expertise through partnership
  - Organizations that have developed a special expertise regarding a particular underserved population
Type of Agency - Questions

- What if the organization provides services to an underserved population?
  - It is not enough that an organization serves members of an underserved population (e.g., a shelter in an urban area that has a sizable racial or ethnic population).
  - The organization must provide *culturally competent services* designed to meet the specific needs of the target population.
Type of Agency - Questions

- How can a State identify appropriate set-aside recipients? In reviewing subgrant applications, look for:
  - Numbers of victims to be served from underserved population;
  - How services will be provided;
  - Community involvement in planning;
  - Outreach to targeted community;
  - Real community partnerships (especially where underserved populations service is not primary mission)
Type of Agency - Examples

- Applicant that proposes to serve deaf:
  - Budget line items for TTY, certified interpreters, other assistive technology?
  - Demonstration of knowledge of and collaboration with organizations serving deaf?
  - Established outreach activities to deaf community?
  - On-going staff training on deaf culture?
Type of Agency - Examples

- Applicant that proposes to serve a specific Hispanic/Latino population:
  - Spanish-speaking staff with appropriate cultural knowledge?
  - Collaborative relationship with community groups?
  - Established outreach activities to community?
  - On-going staff training on cultural competency?
  - Budget item for community partners?
Type of Agency – Non-discrimination

- Culturally-specific community-based organizations that accept STOP funding cannot exclude victims from participating in their programs and activities based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability or age.

- Presentations on civil rights requirements and outreach to faith-based communities
“Underserved Populations”

- Set-aside funds should serve populations underserved because of:
  - Geographic location
  - Underserved racial and ethic populations
  - Special needs (e.g., language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, age)
  - Any other populations determined to be underserved by the Attorney General

42 U.S.C. § 13925(a)(33)
Distribution of Culturally Specific Funding

- VAWA 2005 requires States to “ensure that monies set aside to fund linguistically and culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably among those populations.”
“Equitably” refers to applications, not the State population
State should reach out to underserved populations to create diverse applicant pool
Examine State application and award requirements that may create barriers to funding culturally specific community-based organizations
Implementation plan should address needs of underserved populations