

**REACHING UNDERSERVED  
POPULATIONS:  
The New Culturally Specific Set-  
Aside**

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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 ethnic 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.”

# Distribution of Culturally Specific Funding - continued

- “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