



## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT 2005**

### **TITLE II – SERVICES AND OUTREACH**

#### **SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE LATER IN LIFE**

According to the National Elder Abuse Incidence Study, in 90% of older abuse cases, the perpetrator was a family member.<sup>1</sup> VAWA 2005 will:

- Authorize grants for providing services for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims over age 50, and increases accessibility to buildings where the services will be provided.
- 10% of the authorized funds will be dedicated to Tribal organizations.

#### **ENHANCED SERVICES FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**

Women with disabilities are more likely to be victims of abuse because of their increased physical, economic, social, or psychological dependence on others. VAWA 2005 will:

- Add construction and personnel costs for shelters to better serve victims with disabilities.
- Focus on the development of collaborative partnerships between victim services organizations and organizations serving individuals with disabilities.
- Allocate funding toward the development of model programs that place advocacy and intervention services within organizations serving individuals with disabilities.

#### **TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- VAWA 2005 will reauthorize training grants for law enforcement officers on the abuse of older women and women with disabilities.
- Funding is expanded to include governmental social service agencies and victim assistants.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS**

- VAWA 2005 will provide grants for public information campaigns targeting racial and ethnic minority and immigrant communities about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking
- Campaigns will include both prevention and information on services available for victims

#### **SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND NEW DEFINITIONS**

Because many of the VAWA grant programs were drafted at different times in the past ten years, the definitions and conditions attaching to some grant programs are different from others. VAWA 2005 contains a new section to ensure that grant programs:

- All have the same basic definitions for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and other core terms
- Address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking (rather than just domestic violence)
- Focus on including communities of color in all phases of program work (planning, distribution of funds and delivery of services)
- Offer strong confidentiality protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

#### **RURAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE**

Non-reporting of sexual assault in rural areas is a problem of great concern because of the high rate of non-stranger sexual assault. VAWA 2005 will:

- Increase authorization within the Department of Justice to extend direct grants to state and local governments for services in rural areas.

- Encourage stronger collaboration between victim services, law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, health care providers and other agencies.
- Expand program coverage to sexual assault, child sexual assault and stalking.
- Change eligibility from rural states to rural communities, increasing access to rural sections of otherwise highly populated states.

**The programs described here are proposals under consideration for inclusion in the VAWA reauthorization bill that Members of Congress will introduce in early 2005. As the bill has not been finalized, we cannot be certain that the proposals will be included as described in this document.**

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<sup>1</sup> The National Center on Elder Abuse at The American Public Human Services Association in Collaboration with Westat, Inc. "The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study", September 1998. Prepared for the The Administration for Children and Families and The Administration on Aging in The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.